



STILL
10¢

JUNE
NO. 45

APPROVED
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AUTHORITY

HOUSE of SECRETS

**"DESTINY
of DOOMS!"**

THIS SCENE RECORDED
BY MY FUTURE CAMERA
SHOWS WHAT IS GOING TO
HAPPEN TO YOU, MARK MERLIN--
AND YOU CANNOT ESCAPE
YOUR FATE!



A
**MARK
MERLIN**
MYSTERY

FREE!

BIG 48-PAGE MUSCLE-BUILDING COURSE

PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED
WITH PHOTOS OF THE CHAMPS!



LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I CAN ADD
10" TO YOUR CHEST — 3" TO YOUR
ARMS — UP TO 50 POUNDS OF
MUSCLE TO YOUR BODY...

ALL IN JUST 7 SHORT WEEKS!

SAYS JOE WEIDER

THE MUSCLE BUILDER — THE TRAINER OF CHAMPIONS

TRADE IN that skinny, scrawny, milk toast body of yours for a jet-charged Weider physique — rippling with mountains of mighty muscle, oozing confidence and virility out of every pore. Wake up, fellow! Make the world your oyster! You won't find a more AMAZING INTRODUCTORY FREE COURSE OFFER this side of outer space!

PAY NOTHING NOW • PAY NOTHING LATER • PAY THE POSTMAN NOTHING

Just imagine how you'll feel as you see with your own eyes dynamic, new muscle bulging up on your arms, your back, your chest and thighs! Powerful he-man muscle that turns you into the fellow that others respect and admire. Imagine the flattering attention you'll get from pretty girls at the beach! What a terrific feeling to feel new energy, virility and NATURAL POWER surge through your veins, put you "on top of the world!"

• Well, talk he-man feeling CAN NOW BE YOURS — FREE! And in just 15 minutes a day right in your home! Just send us your name and address on the coupon. Your FREE COURSE will be rushed to you! Don't delay — you have nothing to lose but your weakness! Mail today!

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Some have paid thousands of dollars in expensive gyms to get the muscle-packed body they wanted. These successful men KNOW that a dynamic, power-charged physique is the surest road to being successful with women and forging ahead in the career of your choice. Whether you pay \$1000, \$500, or even \$100 for a body that has "he-man" written all over it, THE PRICE IS NEVER TOO HIGH because you reap "dividends" all the rest of your life!

• BUT FORTUNATELY, YOU CAN NOW GET THIS AMAZING WEIDER MUSCLE-BUILDING COURSE — WRITTEN BY THE OUTSTANDING DEVELOPER OF "MR. AMERICAS" AND OTHER CHAMPIONS — NOT \$1000, not for \$500, not for \$100 BUT ABSOLUTELY FREE!

JUST 15 MINUTES A DAY — IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN HOME.

Just imagine how you'll feel as you use dynamic, new muscle bulging up on your arms, your back, your chest and thighs! What a terrific feeling to feel new energy, virility and NATURAL POWER surge through your veins! Well, this he-man feeling CAN NOW BE YOURS — FREE! And in just 15 minutes a day right in your own home! Just mail the coupon for your FREE COURSE. You have nothing to lose but your weakness — mail today!

GIRLS GO FOR WEIDER CHAMPS!

Like to swap places with this lucky guy? Then let Joe Weider help turn you into a beachside Romeo — with powerful dynamic-charged muscles and a new, confident, he-man personality! Whether it's at the beach or on a dance floor, a Weider-trained physique rates high in the romance department. No wonder Jayne Mansfield and other beauties go for Weider champs!

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Use my system for training and you will gain twice as much muscle and triple your power in less than Half The Time it would take by any other method.

Joe Weider

The Muscle Builder

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Mail Coupon Today for FREE Introductory 48-page Muscle-Building Course.

How to build a
STRONG MUSCULAR BODY



OVER 100 ACTION PHOTOS POSED BY THE CHAMPIONS!

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- How To Develop Giant Arms And Legs!
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- How To Build A Tough Mid-Section & Muscle-Packed Back!
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- Secret Training Methods Of The Champs!

JOE WEIDER
"TRAINER OF CHAMPIONS"
601 Palisade Avenue
Union City, N. J.

Dept. 80-61B

Okay, Joe, rush me my FREE INTRODUCTORY MUSCLE-BUILDING COURSE. I understand I am under no obligation! (Enclose 25c to help pay the cost of handling and postage.)

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY ZONE STATE

In Canada: Write Joe Weider, 2875 Lakeshore Blvd., Montreal, Que., Can.

HARMLESS LOOKING LITTLE RED SPHERES, LEFT BY A LONG DEAD ALCHEMIST! COVERED WITH THE DUST OF SEVEN CENTURIES, HOW COULD THEY CONTAIN ANY THREAT TO MODERN MAN? THE AWFUL ANSWER LAY IN THE RELEASE OF...

the DOOMS from KYRO'S CAVE

NOW LOOK WHAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT UPON US... A LOCUST PLAGUE! THESE INSECTS WILL STRIP OUR FIELDS BARE!

THIS SPHERE FROM KYRO'S CHEST... C-CAN IT SAVE US IN TIME?

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HOUSE OF SECRETS, No. 45, June, 1961 issue. Published monthly by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd and Dickey Streets, SPARTA, ILL. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 375 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N.Y. Editor: Jack Schiff; Associate Editors: Murray Boltinoff, George Kashdan. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U.S., \$1.50 including postage. Foreign, \$3.00 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A.

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Printed in U.S.A.

EXPEDITIONING FOR SAMPLES, TWO GEOLOGISTS STUMBLE UPON A STRANGE CAVE IN THE TINY COUNTRY OF MECKLABURG...

TED--ACCORDING TO THIS PARCHMENT, WE'VE UNCOVERED THE GROTTO-LAB OF KYRO, AN ALCHEMIST!

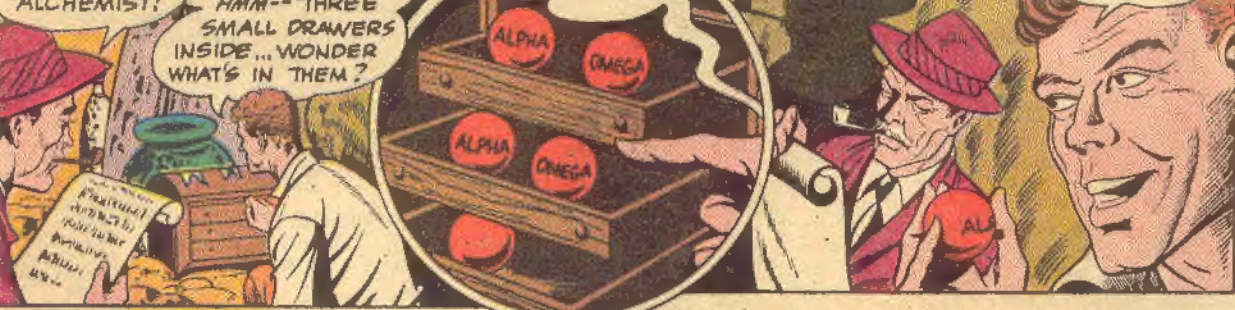
AND THIS MUST'VE BEEN HIS "MAGIC" CHEST, SAM!

HMM-- THREE SMALL DRAWERS INSIDE... WONDER WHAT'S IN THEM?

TWO RED BALLS IN EACH OF THE FIRST TWO DRAWERS-- MARKED ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE GREEK LETTERS MEANING "OPPOSITE"... AND IN THE THIRD DRAWER, A SINGLE BALL THAT'S UNMARKED! THINK I'LL BREAK ONE OPEN--SEE WHAT'S INSIDE...

HOLD IT, TED! OLD KYRO LEFT A CURSE ON THAT BOX! LISTEN... "HE WHO OPENS MY MAGIC CHEST WILL FEEL MY WRATH!"

HA, HA! THOSE OLD ALCHEMISTS SURE KNEW HOW TO KEEP SUPERSTITIOUS FOOLS IN LINE! WHAT HARM COULD COME FROM THESE LITTLE RED BALLS?



BUT LATER, WHEN THE TWO PARTNERS JEEP INTO THE ANCIENT VILLAGE, AND ANNOUNCE THEIR FIND...

YOU HAVE DISCOVERED THE CAVE OF KYRO? TAKE OUR ADVICE, STRANGERS... CLOSE IT UP AGAIN--AND TESS AWAY THAT ACCURSED CHEST!

WHY? SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN ALCHEMY-- TODAY, IN THE 20TH CENTURY!

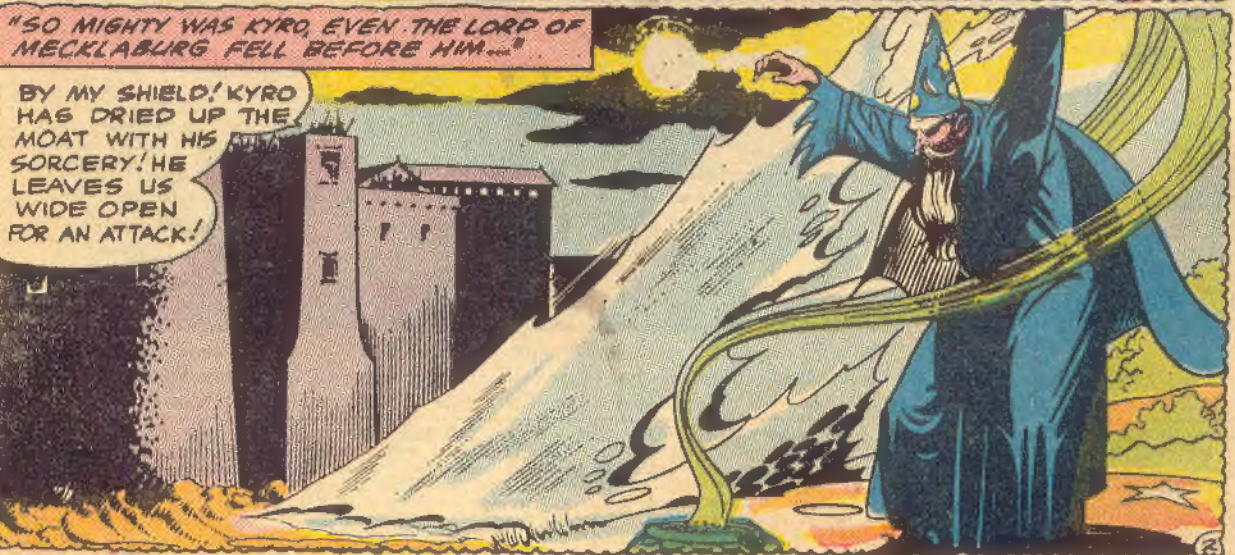
"KYRO WAS VERY POWERFUL! WITH HIS MAGIC, HE VANQUISHED ALL WHO DEIFIED HIM..."

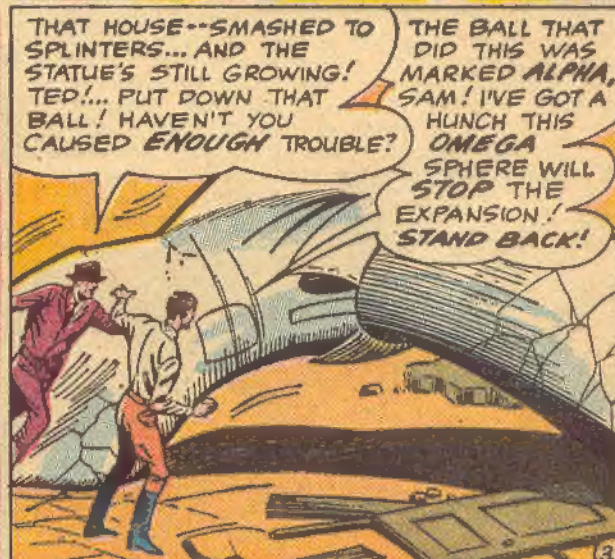
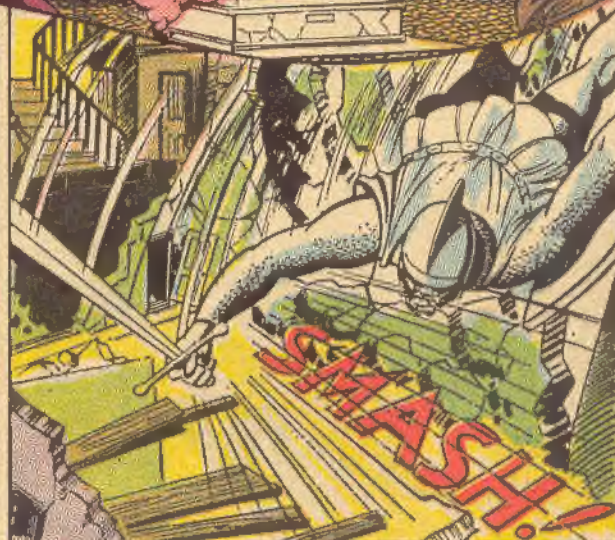
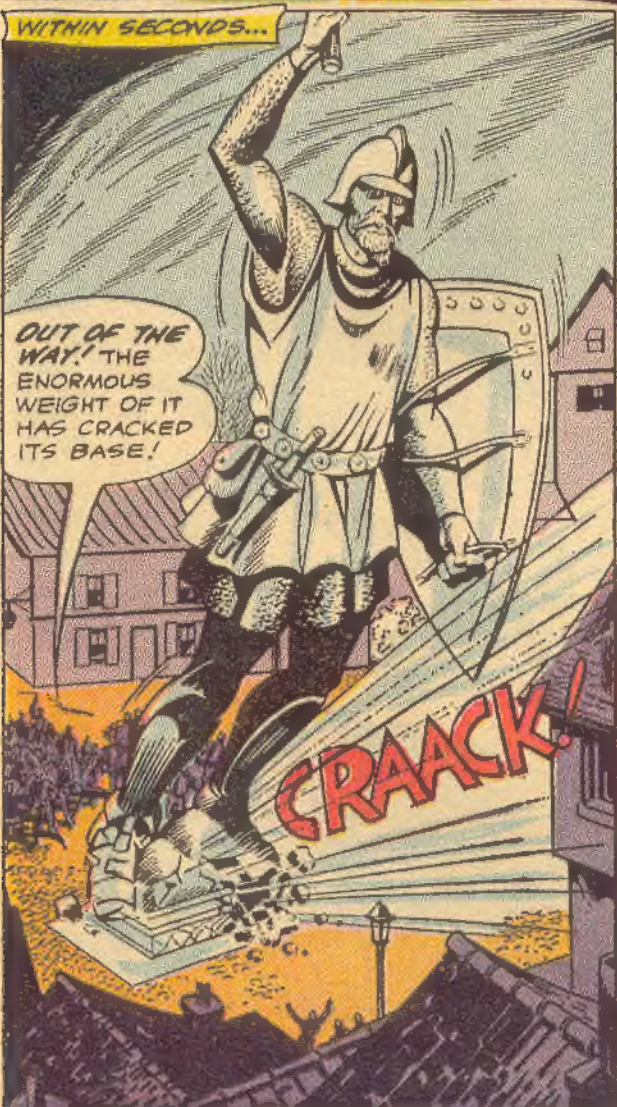
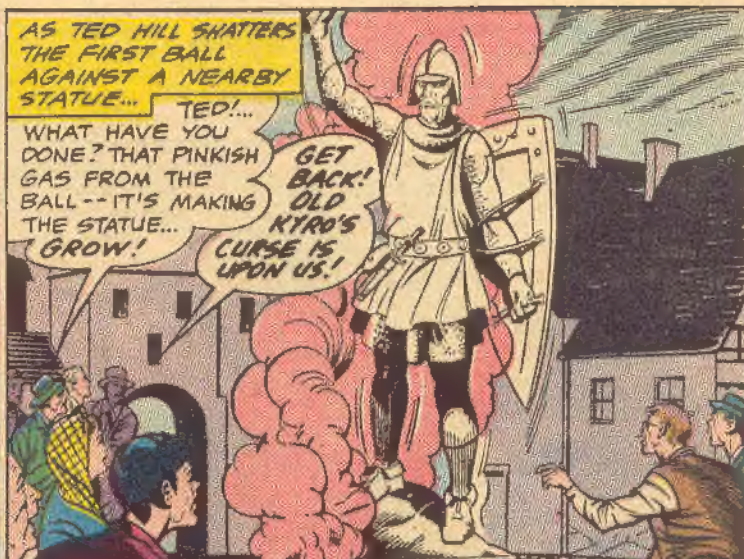
BEHOLD! KYRO MADE THAT GIANT OAK BEND AND PLUCK HIS RIVAL UP LIKE A CHILD!



"SO MIGHTY WAS KYRO, EVEN THE LORD OF MECKLABURG FELL BEFORE HIM..."

BY MY SHIELD, KYRO HAS DRIED UP THE MOAT WITH HIS SORCERY! HE LEAVES US WIDE OPEN FOR AN ATTACK!





AS HILL HURLS THE SECOND BALL...

SOON...

IT'S EMITTING A GREEN GAS! AND LOOK!... THE STATUE... IS IT REALLY SHRINKING-- OR AM I HAVING HALLUCINATIONS?

NO... IT'S GROWING SMALLER ALL RIGHT!

BACK TO NORMAL SIZE... INCREDIBLE!

'WHEW,' MY HUNCH PAID OFF... THE ALPHA BALL CONTAINED A THREAT, AND THE OPPOSITE BALL--THE OMEGA--CONTAINED THE ANTIDOTE! OLD KYRO REALLY KNEW HIS STUFF!

WE WARNED YOU! OLD KYRO'S CHEST MUST REMAIN CLOSED--OR WE WILL HAVE TO DESTROY IT!

DON'T WORRY... MY PARTNER'S LEARNED HIS LESSON! THAT BOX WON'T BE OPENED AGAIN... AND WE'LL PAY FOR ALL DAMAGE, TOO! LUCKILY, THAT HOUSE WAS EMPTY!



AFTERWARD BACK AT THEIR EXCAVATION SITE...

TED, I'M PUTTING THIS CHEST BACK IN THE CAVE! DON'T FOOL WITH IT AGAIN!

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M DYING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE THE OTHER BALLS!



THUS, WHEN SAM RETURNS TO THE VILLAGE FOR SUPPLIES...

THERE!... I SMASHED ANOTHER ALPHA BALL-- AND ALL THAT IT PRODUCED WAS A FUNNEL OF WIND! CAN'T DO ANY HARM OUT HERE IN THIS DESOLATE AREA!

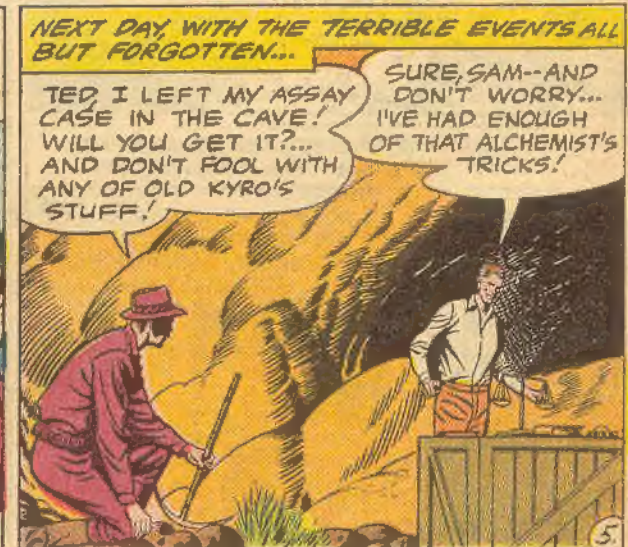


BUT, MINUTES LATER...

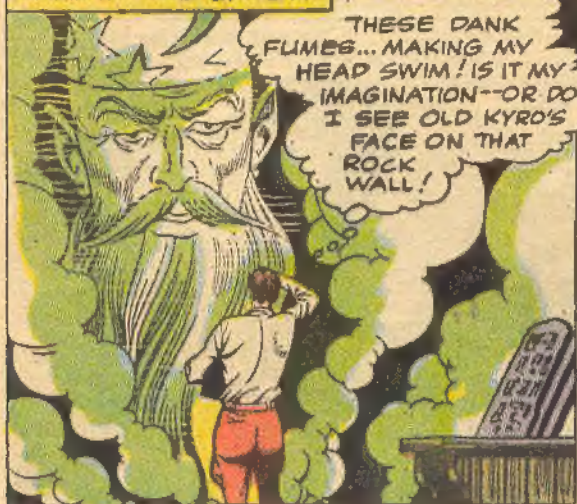
WHAT HAVE YOU UNLEASHED? NO WIND HAS EVER BLOWN UP OVER BLACK MOUNTAIN BEFORE!

I... I DON'T KNOW! THAT DARK CLOUD COMING THIS WAY... WHAT CAN IT BE?



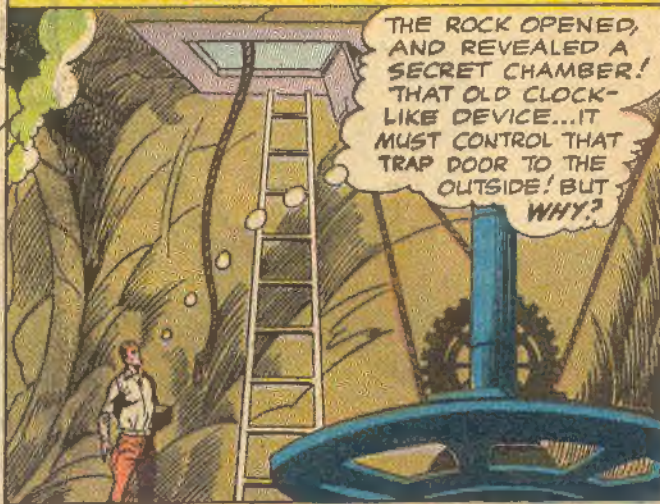


BUT WHEN TED RETRIEVES HIS PARTNER'S CASE IN THE CAVE...



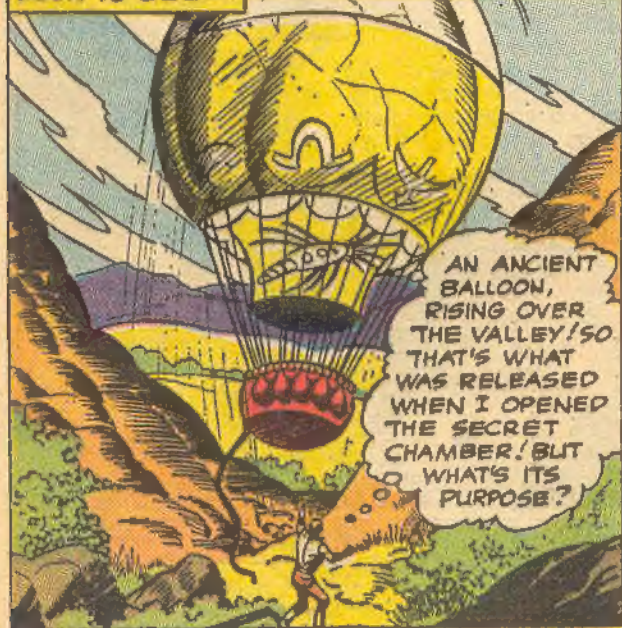
THESE DANK FUMES... MAKING MY HEAD SWIM! IS IT MY IMAGINATION--OR DO I SEE OLD KYRO'S FACE ON THAT ROCK WALL!

SOME INSTINCT DRIVES THE CURIOUS GEOLOGIST TO TOUCH THE HAZY IMAGE, AND...



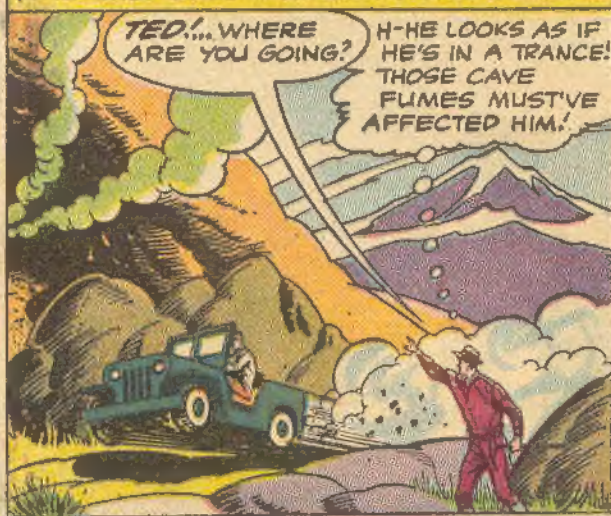
THE ROCK OPENED, AND REVEALED A SECRET CHAMBER! THAT OLD CLOCK-LIKE DEVICE...IT MUST CONTROL THAT TRAP DOOR TO THE OUTSIDE! BUT WHY?

PUZZLED, HE CLIMBS UP THROUGH THE TRAP DOOR TO SEE...



AN ANCIENT BALLOON, RISING OVER THE VALLEY! SO THAT'S WHAT WAS RELEASED WHEN I OPENED THE SECRET CHAMBER! BUT WHAT'S ITS PURPOSE?

IT IS ONLY A FEW MOMENTS LATER, WHEN...



TED!... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

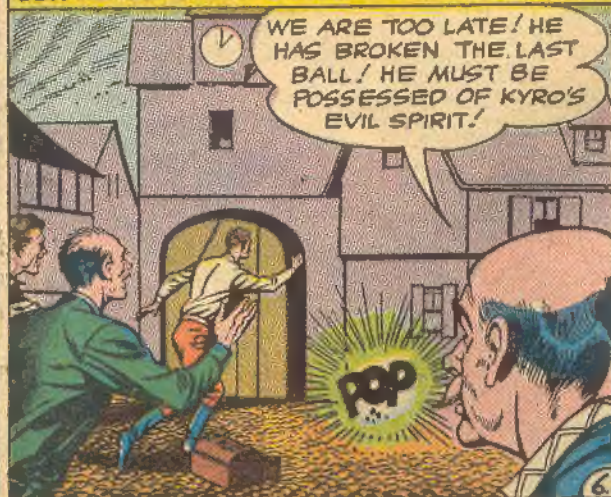
H-HE LOOKS AS IF HE'S IN A TRANCE! THOSE CAVE FUMES MUST'VE AFFECTED HIM!

LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, THE GEOLOGIST TEARS INTO THE QUIET VILLAGE, WHERE...



STOP! YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO TOUCH THAT CHEST! HELP!... THE STRANGER HAS GONE BERSERK!

BY THE TIME THE ENRAGED VILLAGERS CONVERGE ON THE FRANTIC MAN...



WE ARE TOO LATE! HE HAS BROKEN THE LAST BALL! HE MUST BE POSSESSED OF KYRO'S EVIL SPIRIT!

POP

FROM THE FINAL, UNMARKED SPHERE EMERGES THE MOST FRIGHTENING ENTITY OF ALL...

TED!... YOU PROMISED! LOOK AT THAT WEIRD FOAM... IT'S SPREADING EVERYWHERE!

GET BACK!



LIKE A SMOTHERING SEA, THE FOAMY SUBSTANCE BILLOWS OUT AND OUT...

IT'S COVERING THE VILLAGE! FLEE TO HIGH GROUND!

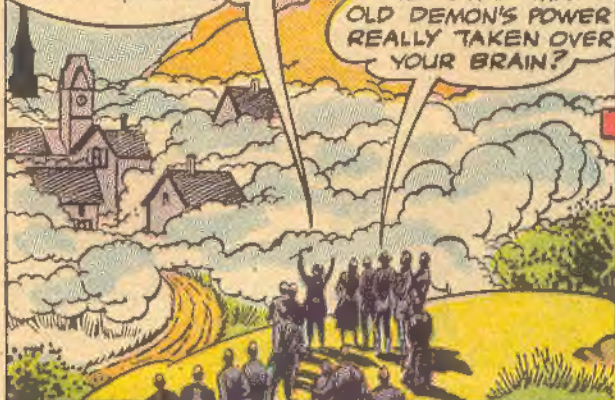
WHY DID YOU LOOSE THIS AWFUL THREAT? THAT WAS THE LAST BALL... THERE'S NO ANTIDOTE FOR IT!



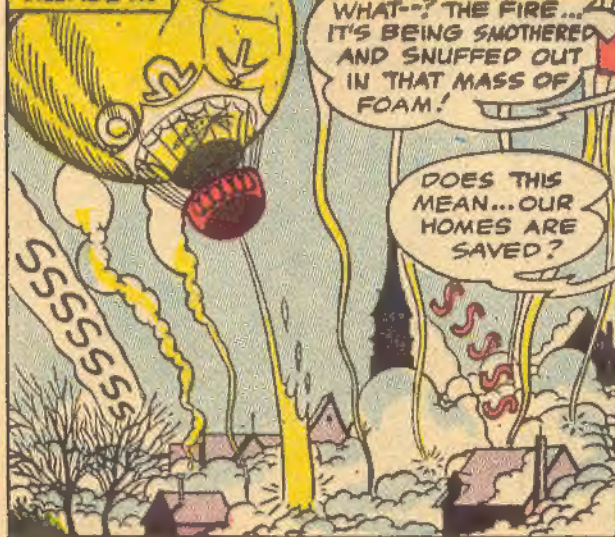
PRESENTLY, ATOP THE HIGHEST HILL...

THIS IS THE FINAL REVENGE OF KYRO--AGAINST OUR POOR VILLAGE!

WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, TED? HAS THAT OLD DEMON'S POWER REALLY TAKEN OVER YOUR BRAIN?



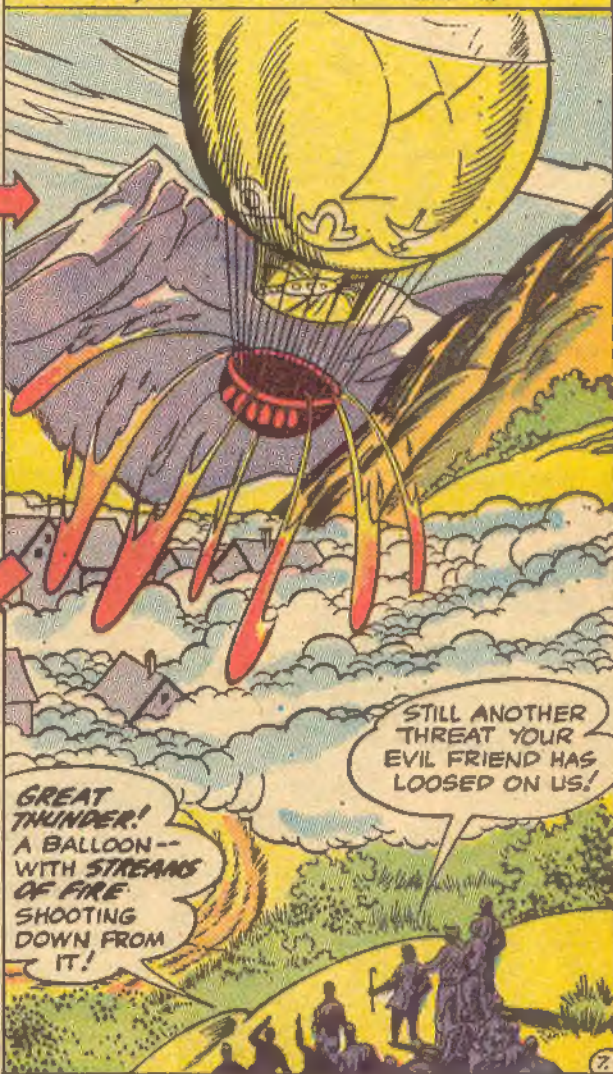
BUT AS THE SEARING FLAMES STRIKE THE VILLAGE...



WHAT--? THE FIRE... IT'S BEING SMOTHERED AND SNUFFED OUT IN THAT MASS OF FOAM!

DOES THIS MEAN... OUR HOMES ARE SAVED?

SUDDENLY, HIGH ABOVE THE VALLEY...



GREAT THUNDER! A BALLOON-- WITH STREAMS OF FIRE SHOOTING DOWN FROM IT!

STILL ANOTHER THREAT YOUR EVIL FRIEND HAS LOOSED ON US!

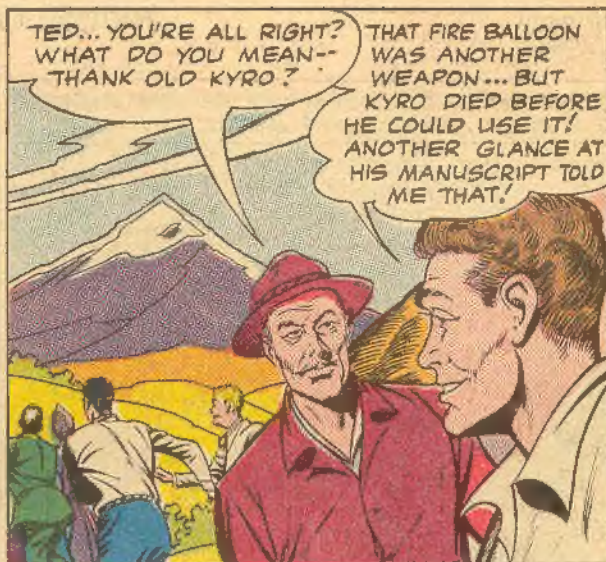


HOUSE OF SECRETS



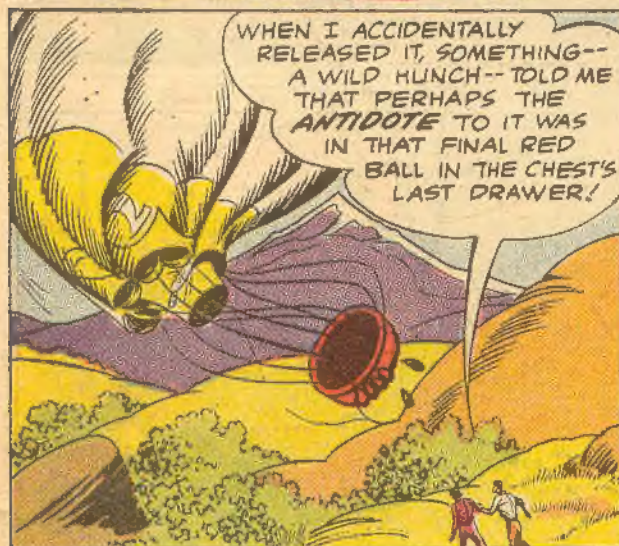
YES--LOOK! THE BALLOON HAS STOPPED SPEWING FIRE--AND THE FOAM IS DISAPPEARING!

THANK GOODNESS... OR SHOULD I SAY--THANK OLD KYRO!

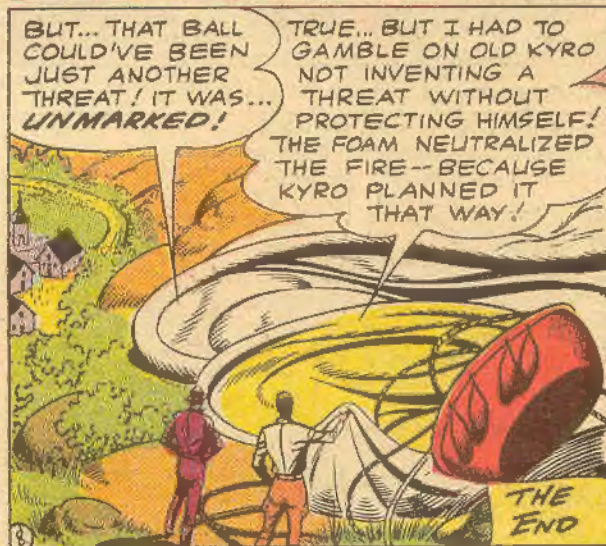


TED... YOU'RE ALL RIGHT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN--THANK OLD KYRO?

THAT FIRE BALLOON WAS ANOTHER WEAPON... BUT KYRO DIED BEFORE HE COULD USE IT! ANOTHER GLANCE AT HIS MANUSCRIPT TOLD ME THAT!



WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY RELEASED IT, SOMETHING--A WILD HUNCH--TOLD ME THAT PERHAPS THE ANTIDOTE TO IT WAS IN THAT FINAL RED BALL IN THE CHEST'S LAST DRAWER!



BUT... THAT BALL COULD'VE BEEN JUST ANOTHER THREAT! IT WAS... UNMARKED!

TRUE... BUT I HAD TO GAMBLE ON OLD KYRO NOT INVENTING A THREAT WITHOUT PROTECTING HIMSELF! THE FOAM NEUTRALIZED THE FIRE--BECAUSE KYRO PLANNED IT THAT WAY!

THE END

Your Passport to AMAZING ADVENTURES!



TODAY'S MOST ELECTRIFYING MAGAZINES.

ON SALE EVERYWHERE!

Dr. FLOOGLE

I'VE INVENTED A FOOLPROOF MACHINE TO DETECT GOLD!

GOOD! LET'S TRY IT OUT BY GOING PROSPECTING!

I'VE GOT THE MACHINE, DR. FLOOGLE. WE'LL SEE IF IT WORKS!

SHORTLY..

IT'S TICKING-- LISTEN!

IT'S GETTING LOUDER!

AND LOUDER STILL! DR FLOOGLE - IT'S TICKING LIKE MAD! WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO A TREMENDOUS GOLD DEPOSIT!

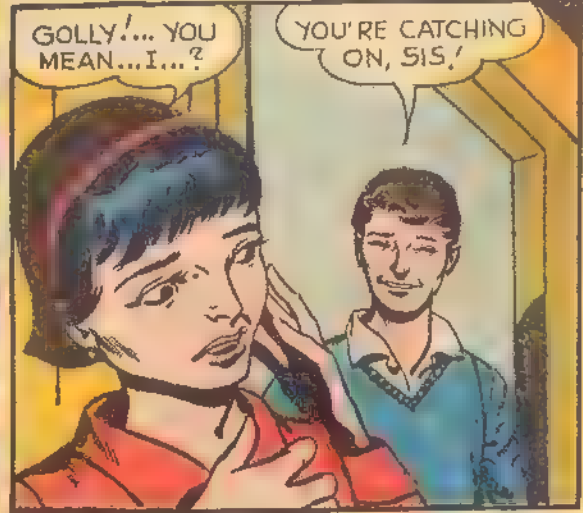
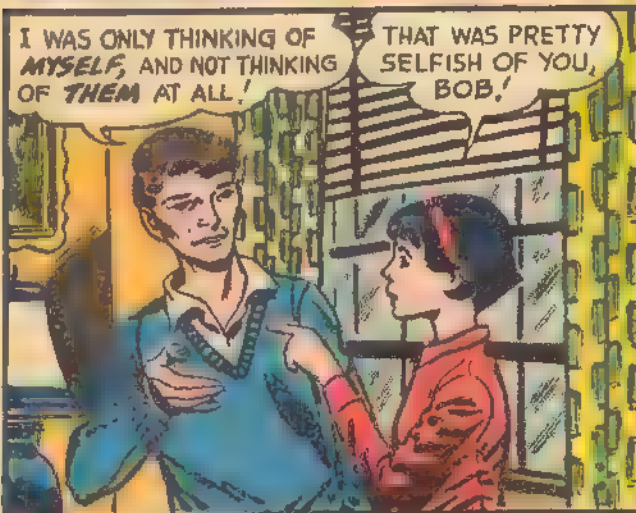
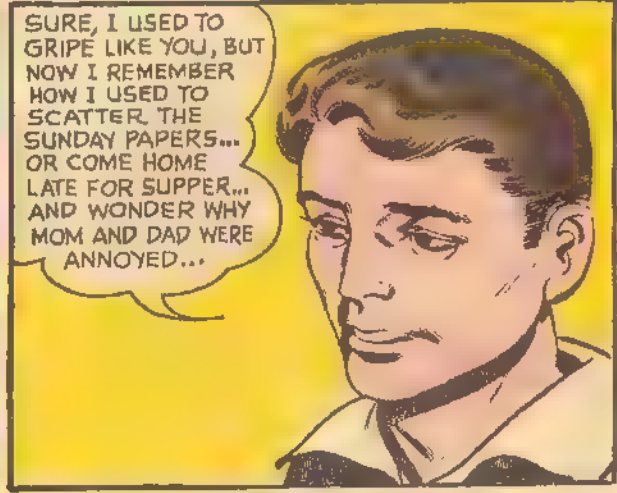
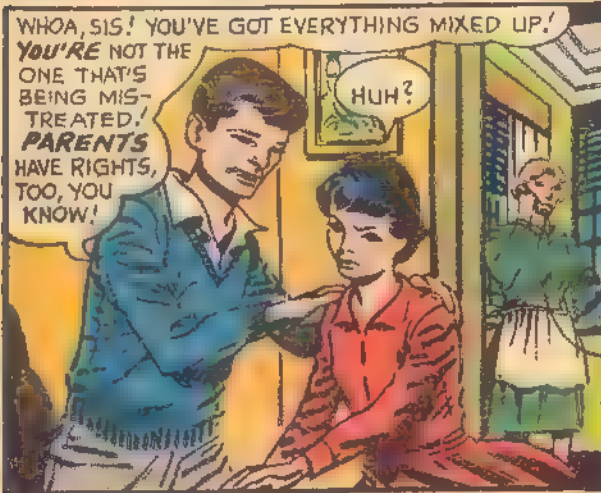
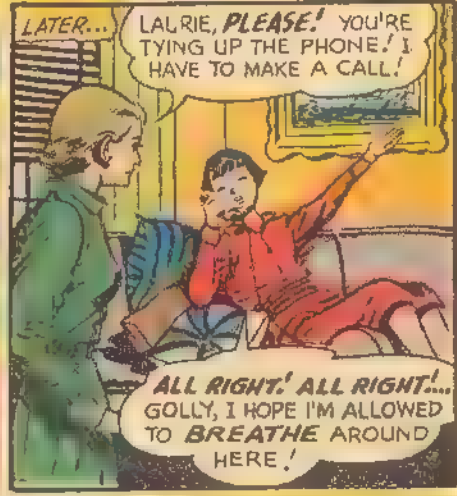
WE SURE ARE! LOOK!

FT. KNOX
←

END.

The **BEST** Comics  are **STILL 10¢**

PARENTS Have Rights, Too!



Rip Hunter... **TIME MASTER**

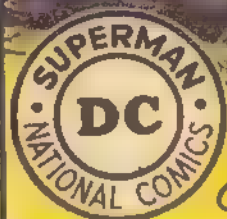
in ANOTHER
3-PART THRILLER...

The ALIEN BEASTS from 500 B.C.!



A FANTASTIC MENACE
OF **TODAY** LAUNCHES
RIP AND HIS DARING
COMPANIONS INTO A
DANGER-PACKED
ADVENTURE IN THE
PAST, WHERE THEY
ARE FACED WITH THE
CHALLENGE OF...

- THE FLAME-THROWING
FUROL!
- THE ENERGY-SHOOTING
SNAAR!
- THE HEAT-BLASTING
DRED!



ON SALE
Everywhere

BE SURE TO GET ABOARD THE
TIME SPHERE
FOR THE MOST EXCITING
VOYAGE OF YOUR LIFE!

LIKE PARTS OF SOME DEADLY JIGSAW PUZZLE THE PIECES OF THE GIANT WEAPONS WERE ASSEMBLED! WHAT WAS BEHIND THOSE ENORMOUS SYMBOLS OF VIOLENCE, THE PUBLIC WANTED TO KNOW! BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE NO ANSWER TO...

the **SECRET** of the **SINISTER** **STRUCTURES**

I'VE PAID FOR MY LAND AND LABOR, AND I'VE BROKEN NO LAWS! WHAT RIGHT DO THOSE PEOPLE HAVE TO QUESTION MY MOTIVES?

YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, DR. HUMES--IF THOSE GIANT "TOYS" OF YOURS PROVE HALF AS DESTRUCTIVE AS THEY LOOK!



AT THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN LONGVIEW, A STRANGE MEETING IS UNDERWAY...

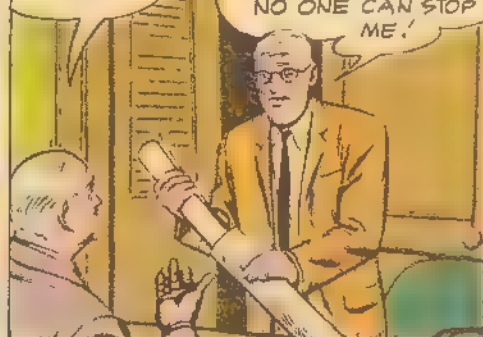
IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR REPUTATION AS A SCIENTIST, DR. HUMES, I'D SAY THESE BLUEPRINTS WERE THE WORK OF A LUNATIC!

MR. DRISCOLL, ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS, DO THOSE PLANS VIOLATE YOUR BUILDING CODE IN ANY WAY?



NO... THEY'RE TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE-- BUT WHY WOULD ANY SANE MAN WANT TO BUILD--

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! I'VE PAID CASH FOR THE LAND AND CONSTRUCTION WORK, AND BROKEN NO LAWS! NO ONE CAN STOP ME!



BUT THE COMMISSIONER IS NOT THE ONLY ONE TROUBLED...

ALL THE SUPPLIES ARE HERE, DR. HUMES, INCLUDING THE SPECIAL DEVICES THAT YOU SUPPLIED YOURSELF-- BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY--

YOU'RE NOT BEING PAID TO UNDERSTAND! YOUR JOB IS TO FOLLOW ORDERS, STERLING!



AND, THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AS THE FIRST STRUCTURE IS ASSEMBLED...

THERE IT IS, HUMES-- A GIANT, OPERATING MODEL OF AN AUTOMATIC PISTOL, AMMUNITION AND ALL! BUT THAT CROWD IS GETTING MIGHTY CURIOUS!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOSEY BUNCH. I'VE HIRED ARMED GUARDS TO TAKE CARE OF THEM! YOU JUST FINISH THE OTHER STRUCTURES ON SCHEDULE!



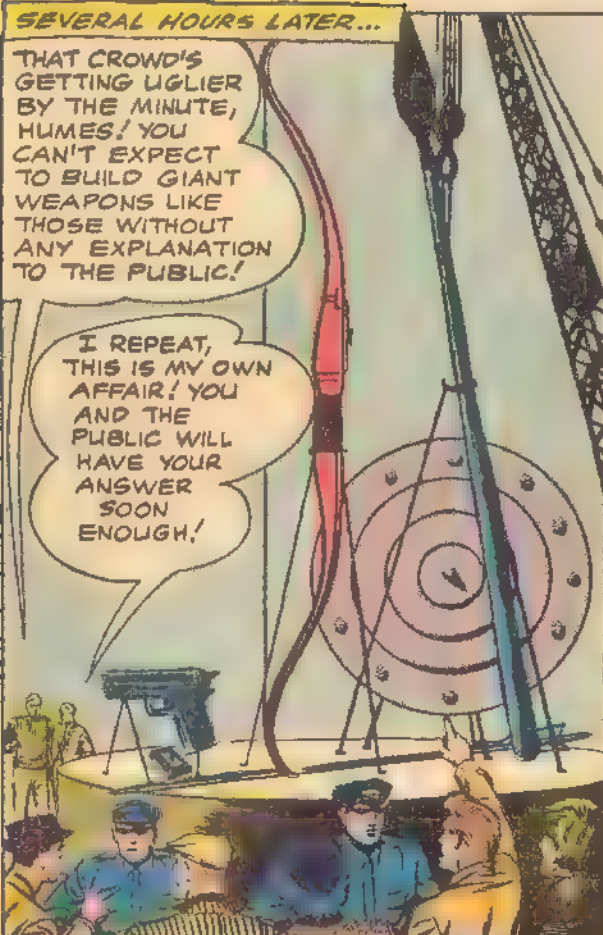
THE FOUNDATION IS ALMOST COMPLETE, AND ALL THE MATERIALS ARE PREFABRICATED-- SO YOUR JOB IS EASY! PUT ON AN EXTRA CREW, IF NEED BE... THIS JOB MUST BE FINISHED BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON OR YOUR CONTRACT IS FORFEIT!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

THAT CROWD'S GETTING UGLIER BY THE MINUTE, HUMES! YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO BUILD GIANT WEAPONS LIKE THOSE WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION TO THE PUBLIC!

I REPEAT, THIS IS MY OWN AFFAIR! YOU AND THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE YOUR ANSWER SOON ENOUGH!



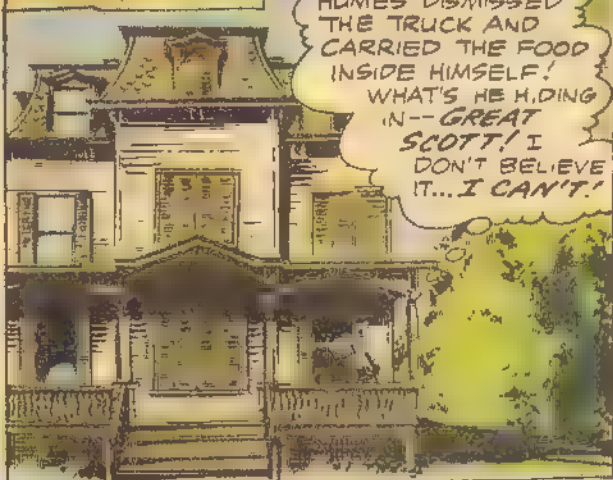
BUT WITH HIS REPUTATION AT STAKE, THE ENGINEER DETERMINES TO GET HIS OWN ANSWERS...

WHY SHOULD HUMES HURRY UP YOU MEN! I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY!
DRIVE TO A PRODUCE CENTER AND BUY ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED A SMALL ARMY? THIS THING GETS WEIRDER BY THE MINUTE!



STERLING FOLLOWS THE TRUCK TO A GREAT ESTATE, WHERE...

HUMES DISMISSED THE TRUCK AND CARRIED THE FOOD INSIDE HIMSELF! WHAT'S HE HIDING IN-- GREAT SCOTT! I DON'T BELIEVE IT... I CAN'T!



ALL RIGHT, I BUILT THOSE WEAPONS YOU WANTED! THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU...GO GET THEM!

GIANTS! TWO HUMANS, MANY TIMES THE SIZE OF ORDINARY MEN! THAT'S WHY HE BUILT THOSE FANTASTIC WEAPONS... HE'S WORKING WITH THEM FOR SOME SINISTER PURPOSE!



OKAY, DOC, YOU DID YOUR JOB! AND BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER, THOSE WEAPONS ARE GONNA DO THEIRS!

HE'S ARMED THOSE GOLIATHS AGAINST THE WORLD! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE THEY RUN AMUCK!

CRASH

WITH THE GIANTS GONE, STERLING RACES INTO THE BUILDING, AND...

START TALKING, HUMES! WHAT KIND OF A DEAL DID YOU MAKE WITH THOSE MONSTERS? WHAT'S BEHIND THIS?

STERLING! WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! LET ME EXPLAIN!

"FOR YEARS, I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A METHOD FOR INCREASING THE STRENGTH OF VARIOUS MATERIALS--TILL FINALLY, MY EXPERIMENTS BEGAN TO BEAR FRUIT..."

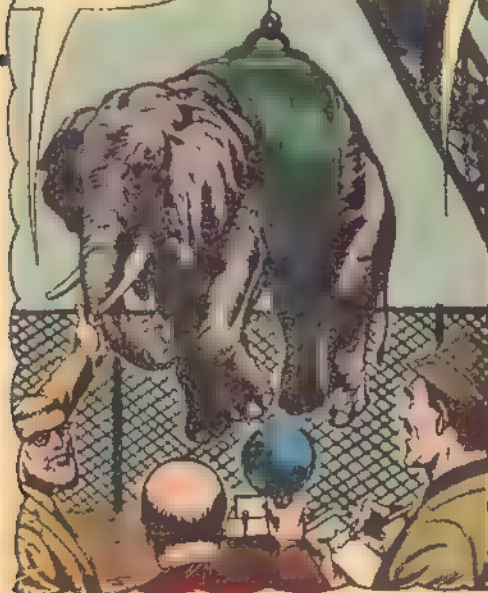
AND THERE YOU SEE A METAL WIRE THAT FORMERLY COULD SUPPORT ONLY 100 POUNDS! A SINGLE TREATMENT WITH MY RAY AND IT IS ABLE TO LIFT TWO TONS!

ASTOUNDING! THINK OF WHAT SUCH STRENGTH AND DURABILITY COULD DO FOR LIVING MATTER--FOR A MAN! IT WOULD MAKE HIM INVULNERABLE!

"OF COURSE, I HAD NO SUCH PLANS FOR MY RAY MACHINE--BUT, THAT NIGHT..."

OKAY, DOC, YOU AND ME ARE GONNA DO BUSINESS! YOU'RE GONNA TREAT ME WITH THAT RAY OF YOURS, AND MAKE ME INVULNERABLE! THEN I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF LOUIE MARLIN! POOR LOUIE...
HA, HA, HA!

NO... I CAN'T! THAT RAY HAS NEVER BEEN TESTED ON LIVING BEINGS!



"BUT HE REFUSED TO LISTEN--AND SO, SHORTLY, OUT IN THE GARAGE WHERE I KEPT THE MACHINE, THE LIGHTS DIMMED UNDER THE HEAVY CURRENT DRAIN, AND..."

DOC!... WHAT'S WRONG? S-SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME, I CAN FEEL IT!

YOU--YOU'RE GROWING!... AT A FANTASTIC RATE! I WARNED YOU THIS THING WAS UNPREDICTABLE!



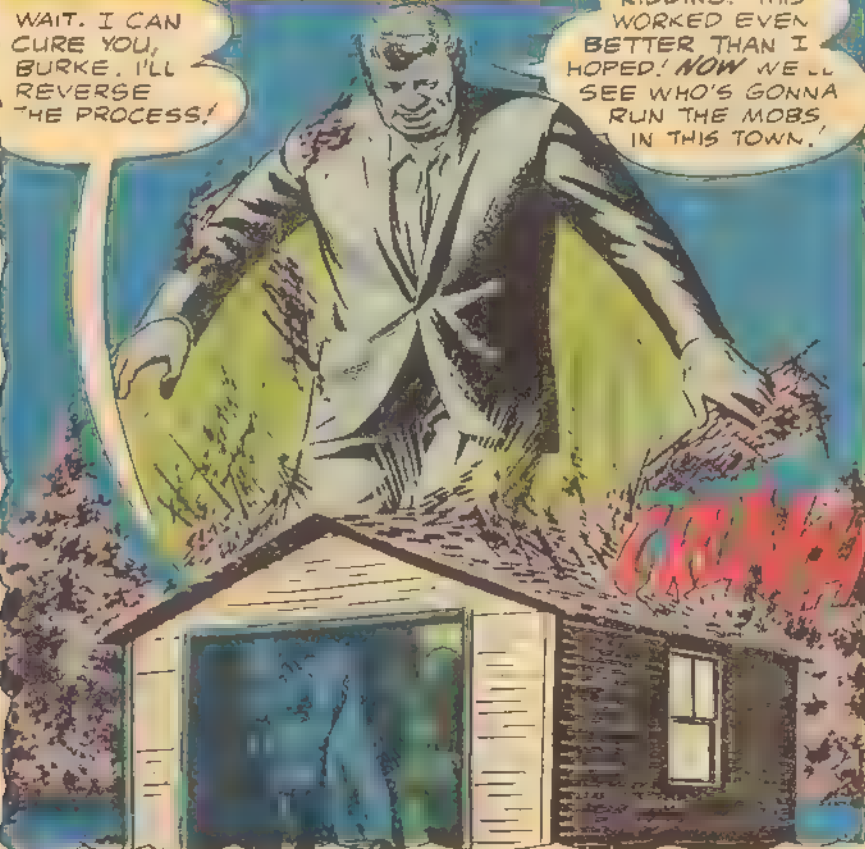
"AND WHEN THE PHENOMENON CEASED ..."

WAIT. I CAN CURE YOU, BURKE. I'LL REVERSE THE PROCESS!

ARE YOU KIDDING? THIS WORKED EVEN BETTER THAN I HOPED! NOW WE'LL SEE WHO'S GONNA RUN THE MOBS IN THIS TOWN!

BUT SECONDS LATER BEFORE I HAD RECOVERED FROM THAT FIRST SHOCK "

I SAW IT ALL, DOC! I FOLLOWED BURKE OUT HERE, KNOWING THAT PUNK WAS ON TO SOMETHING! YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT--I'M LOUIE MARLIN... AND I'M GONNA BE YOUR **SECOND GIANT!**



"AND JUST AS I COMPLETED THIS SECOND TERRIBLE CHANGE . "

I SAW THE LIGHTS IN THE DOC'S HOUSE DIM FROM DOWN THE ROAD, SO I KNEW WHAT MUST'VE HAPPENED! YOU DROPPED YOUR GUN -- THE ODDS ARE EQUAL! HERE I COME!

COME AHEAD, BIG SHOT!





HOUSE OF SECRETS



"BREATHLESS, I WATCHED AS THE TITANIC STRUGGLE BEGAN..."

GET A LOAD OF THIS, PAL!

HE TORE THAT GREAT TREE RIGHT OUT OF THE GROUND! THEIR POWER IS UNBELIEVABLE!

I SNAPPED THAT TREE LIKE A TOOTHPICK. HA, HA! TRY AGAIN, BUDDY!

NO!... WAIT!... THIS IS USELESS! STOP!

DON'T YOU SEE-- YOU'RE BOTH EQUALS! BARE-HANDED, YOU'D DESTROY *EVERYTHING*, WITHOUT AFFECTING EACH OTHER! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIGHT THIS THING OUT... LET ME BUILD YOU WEAPONS EQUAL TO YOUR SIZE.

HEY, YOU GOT A GOOD THOUGHT THERE, DOC! GO AHEAD... ONLY MAKE IT SNAPPY!

IN STERLING'S CAR, THEY RACE OFF TO OVERTAKE THE PAIR, AS...

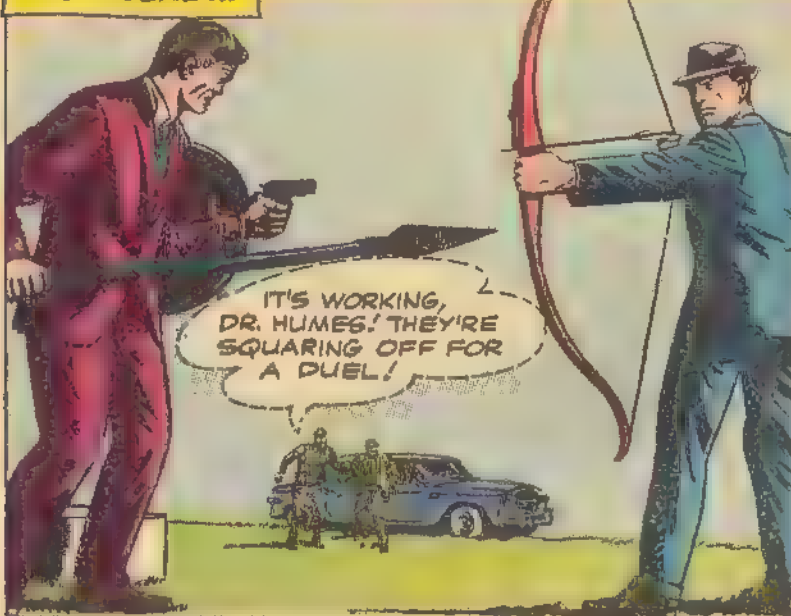
YEAH, RUN, LITTLE PEOPLE! HA, HA! WATCH A COUPLE OF BIG MEN IN ACTION!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! GIANTS! INCREDIBLE BEINGS!

IT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF! IF ONE OF THEM SURVIVED A HAND-TO-HAND STRUGGLE, THE WORLD WOULD BE AT HIS MERCY!

BUT, WITH THOSE WEAPONS, YOU'RE HOPING THEY'LL DESTROY EACH OTHER! SORRY I MISTRUSTED YOU, DOCTOR... BUT LET'S HOPE YOUR PLAN WORKS!

MINUTES LATER, AS STERLING AND HUMES ARRIVE ON THE SCENE...



IT'S WORKING, DR. HUMES! THEY'RE SQUARING OFF FOR A DUEL!

BUT SUDDENLY, A GREAT HAND REACHES DOWN, AND...

SURPRISE, DOC! BURKE AND ME JUST HAD A LITTLE TALK... WE DECIDED THE TWO BIGGEST MEN IN THE WORLD SHOULDN'T FIGHT EACH OTHER WHEN THEY CAN WORK TOGETHER AND DIVIDE THE LOOT! ;HA, HA, ;



WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE GIANTS DEPART...



NO ONE WILL DARE TO RESIST THOSE MONSTERS! THEY'LL SQUEEZE EVERY CITY FOR ALL THEY CAN GET! I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM, STERLING-- I'VE GOT TO!

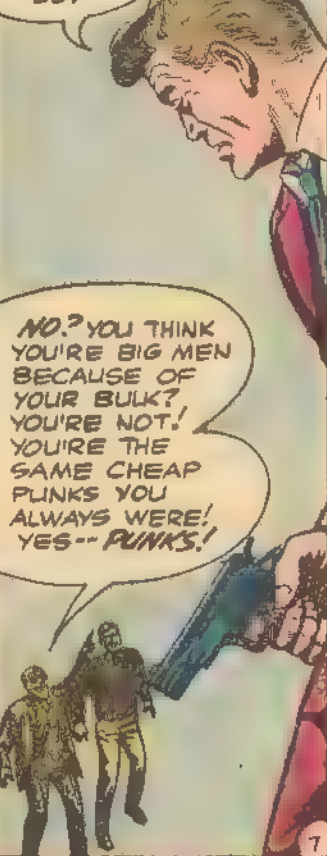
DON'T BE A FOOL! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALONE!

BUT THE SCIENTIST IS BEYOND PERSUASION-- AND SHORTLY, IN THE CITY...



LOOK!... THEY'VE EXTORTED EVERY PENNY FROM THAT BANK! STOP! YOU CAN'T DO THIS, YOU-- YOU TWO-BIT HOODS!

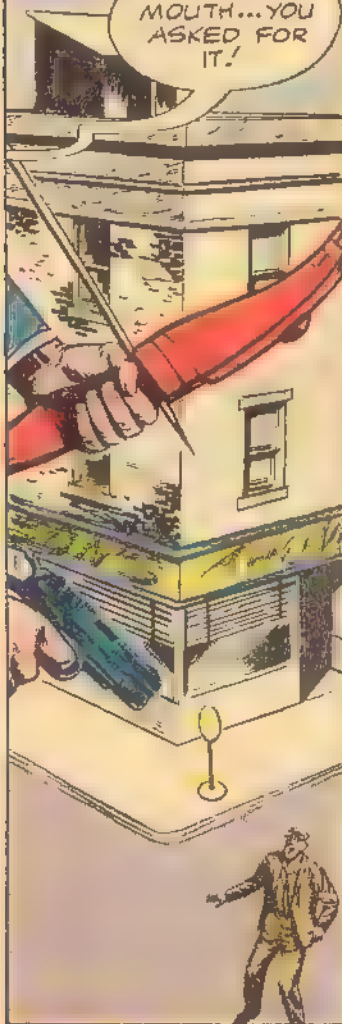
SCRAM, DOC! YOU DID US A FAVOR... BUT THAT DON'T MEAN YOU CAN INSULT US!



NO? YOU THINK YOU'RE BIG MEN BECAUSE OF YOUR BULK? YOU'RE NOT! YOU'RE THE SAME CHEAP PLINKS YOU ALWAYS WERE! YES-- PUNKS!

THEIR ANGER AROUSED,
THE GOADED CRIMINALS
RAISE THEIR WEAPONS,
AND...

OKAY, BIG
MOUTH...YOU
ASKED FOR
IT!



BUT WHEN THEY FIRE AT THE HELPLESS FIGURE...

EEYOW! THE BULLET FIRED
CRAZY... AND RAYS ARE POURING
OUT OF THE GUN!

SAME WITH MY BOW
AND ARROW! THESE
WEAPONS WERE
BOOBY-TRAPPED!



AND IN THE
STARTLING
MOMENTS
THAT FOLLOW...

WE'RE SHRINKING!
THAT'S WHAT THE
DOC PLANNED
ALL ALONG...
HE TRICKED
US!



SOON...

NICE GOING, DR.
HUMES! THOSE
SPECIAL MECHANISMS
YOU MADE ME BUILD
INTO THE WEAPONS...THEY
WERE PORTABLE MODELS
OF YOUR RAY
MACHINE!

EXACTLY! SINCE I
COULDN'T GET BURKE
AND MARLIN TO
SUBMIT TO THE
REVERSE RAY, I
HAD TO TRICK
THEM INTO IT, WITH
THOSE WEAPONS
YOU BUILT FOR ME!

BUT WHEN THEY
DECIDED NOT
TO FIGHT EACH
OTHER, I HAD
A PROBLEM!

YES... YOU HAD TO
GOAD THEM INTO
FIRING AT YOU!
GOOD WORK, DOCTOR.
BUT NEXT TIME YOU
WANT ANYTHING
BUILT, GET A DO-IT-
YOURSELF KIT,
WILL YOU?



BEHIND THE DUNGEON DOOR

IN the village, they called it "Faversham's Folly." High up in the hills that made it unapproachable, Faversham had had the castle rebuilt. It had cost a vast sum of money and taken 18 months to be reassembled after being imported from England in almost 11,000 crates. The villagers looked up in awe as the formidable structure took shape, and finally the 35,000 pieces of this extravagant jigsaw puzzle were in place.

To Faversham, it was an ideal setting to become a recluse. He was seldom seen in the village, coming down from his lofty and lonely perch only when marketing made it necessary, for no villager would dare cut himself away from his normal way of life to work for Faversham. His guests were few, and these Faversham would meet at the railroad station in his luxurious new automobile. They were always men, traveling alone, who, usually bore no baggage but a single suitcase.

Faversham and his guest would glide through the village, purposefully heading directly for the castle. Once they crossed the drawbridge over the moat and closed the great oak door behind, they were not seen until it was time for the guest to bid his host farewell. What transpired in that ancient fortress, shouldering above the pin oaks, nobody dared to guess. Only the fiercely glowering gargoyles pinned in the parapets and buttresses seemed to know, but their lips were sealed in stone.

This day, Faversham made one of his infrequent visits to the depot to pick up a guest. Any observer would have noted their greetings were curt, and the car sped off towards the castle. Faversham stopped in a courtyard and wordlessly led his guest inside. He paused in the stone-cold reception chamber. The light coming through the small windows in the high vaulted room was meagre. He put his hand on a switch, and incongruously the room, which, in bygone years had been illuminated by torch and brazier, sprang to life with electricity.

Faversham gasped. "My eyes! What's hap-

pened to them?" He rubbed them fiercely with his fists.

"What's wrong?" asked his guest.

"Something's happened to my vision. Those red tapestries on the wall—they're black now! And every color has changed! They're all green! I must be going blind, or color-blind!"

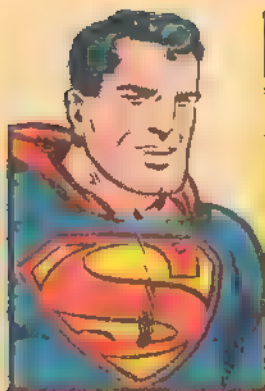
"You're right," said his troubled guest. "I see every color distinctly."

With a wild cry, Faversham tore across the room, the sound of his shoes echoing on the stone floor. He raced down the gloomy, circular stairway to the dungeon. His touch of a button sent a secret panel sliding open. Flinging himself inside, he jabbed the wall switch, and the room was bathed in fluorescent light. Faversham glanced about him, stupefied. His white lab coat and the pigments in the glass jars were their true colors. So were the green bills he'd made that day, piled alongside the counterfeit machine. "I—I don't understand," he murmured.

"Maybe I can clarify matters for you," said a voice behind him.

Faversham whirled. His guest was exhibiting a Treasury agent's shield. "It took us a long time to locate the source of the phony money," said the agent. "When all clues directed us here, my partner and I slipped in while you were in the village. But our search was fruitless. We knew, an accusal would only bring a denial from you, so we had to trick you. There was only one way to uncover your hidden press and equipment, and that was to have you lead us to them. I replaced the man coming here to buy your counterfeit, while my partner switched the lights upstairs with mercury-vapor lamps."

The second agent had entered, holding a flat electric bulb. "This is one of them. It makes red seem black and tends to muddy other colors with a strong emphasis on green when it's first snapped on. You were beyond suspicion, Faversham, for a long time, but our color trick led you to be caught red-handed!"



OF MY GUEST AT THE
CLYDE BEATTY & COLE BROS. 3-RING

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THE AMAZING LENS FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE, AND SNAPPED SCENES THAT WERE FATED TO HAPPEN! IMPOSSIBLE? THAT'S WHAT MARK MERLIN, FAMOUS SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, THOUGHT, UNTIL HE FOUND HIMSELF LIVING THE PREDICTED...

DESTINY of DOOMS

A
MARK
MERLIN
MYSTERY

M-MARK! TH-THE
FUTURE CAMERA
SHOWED THAT
FANTASTIC BEAST
CHASING US...
AND NOW IT'S
HAPPENING!



ON A REMOTE ROAD JUST WEST OF THE ROCKIES, MARK MERLIN, FAR-FAMED SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, SLOWS HIS HIGH-POWERED CAR, AS...

THAT MUST BE THE TRAILER-LAB UP AHEAD, ELSA!

GUESS SO... BUT WHO IS THIS PROFESSOR VOLO, MARK? AND WHAT'S HE WANT?

SEARCH ME! HIS MESSAGE ONLY SAID THAT HE'D HEARD WE WERE DUE THIS WAY ON A HUNTING TRIP--AND THAT HE HAD TO SEE ME ON A LIFE-AND-DEATH MATTER!

MINUTES LATER, INSIDE THE LAB ON WHEELS...

MR. MERLIN?... I SHALL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT! THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING INVENTIONS OF OUR TIME--A CAMERA CAPABLE OF CAPTURING SCENES FROM THE FUTURE!

PARDON ME FOR SMILING, PROFESSOR VOLO, BUT--

SCOFF ALL YOU WANT! BUT WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT I PICKED UP WHILE EXPERIMENTING, A FEW WEEKS AGO!

NEXT INSTANT, MARK AND HIS SECRETARY GAPE AT A STARTLING SIGHT...

MARK... THAT'S US-- WALKING THROUGH THAT CLEARING WE JUST PASSED! BUT WE'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE!

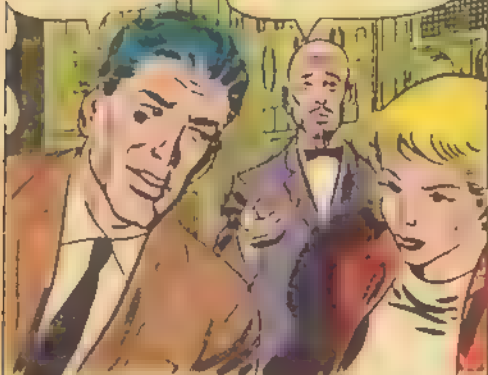
SUDDENLY, AN EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE SCENE FILLS THE SCREEN...

EXACTLY! HAVE YOU SEEN ENOUGH, MR. MERLIN?

GRACIOUS! THAT FANTASTIC CREATURE-- IT'S SHOWN CHASING US!

YES--A REMARKABLE EXAMPLE OF TRICK PHOTOGRAPHY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR MOTIVE IS, VOLO-- BUT I'M NOT BUYING ANY OF IT' COME ON, ELSA!

B-BUT, THERE'S MORE I WANT YOU TO SEE!



GOSH, MARK-- DO YOU THINK SUCH THINGS ARE POSSIBLE?

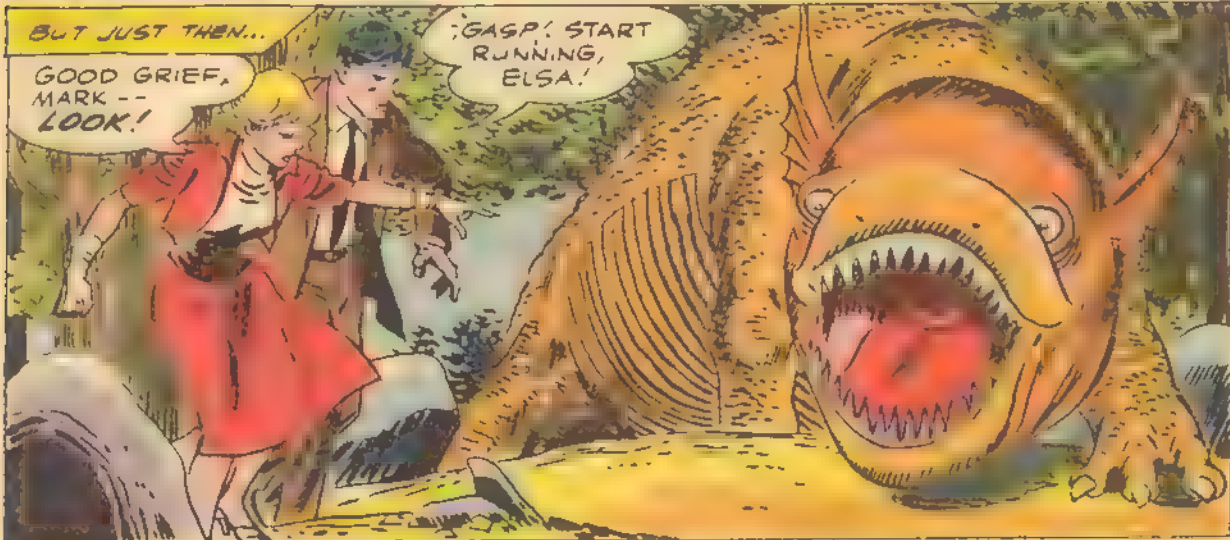
NOT A CHANCE, ELSA! I DON'T KNOW WHY VOLOS TRYING TO SCARE US OUT OF THIS AREA-- BUT I'M SURPRISED HE EXPECTED ME TO FALL FOR HIS PHONEY FUTURE CAMERA!



BUT JUST THEN...

GOOD GRIEF, MARK-- LOOK!

GASP! START RUNNING, ELSA!



AS THE DARING DUO ZIG-ZAGS THROUGH THE WOODS...

IT'S--IT'S CATCHING UP TO US, MARK.. FOLLOWING EVERY TURN WE MAKE!

SO I NOTICED! QUICKLY-- THROUGH THESE TREES!

AND AS THE STRANGE CREATURE CONTINUES TO PURSUE...

DID IT! I COUNTED ON THAT BIG DUMB BEAST TO KEEP RIGHT ON OUR HEELS--AND NOW IT'S WEDGED BETWEEN THOSE GIANT OAKS. COME ON-- WE'RE GOING BACK TO PROFESSOR VOLO!



SHORTLY...

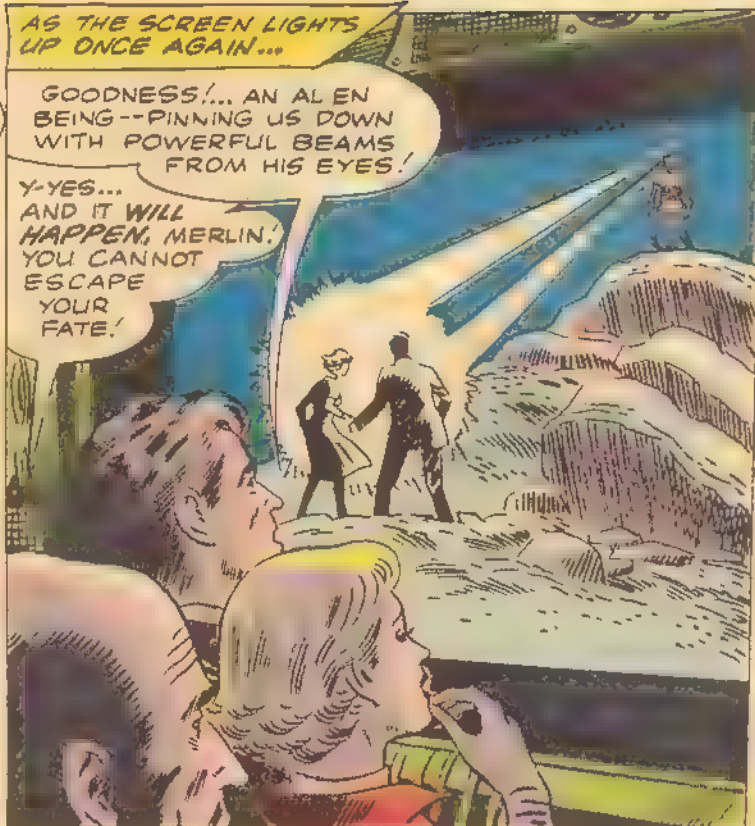
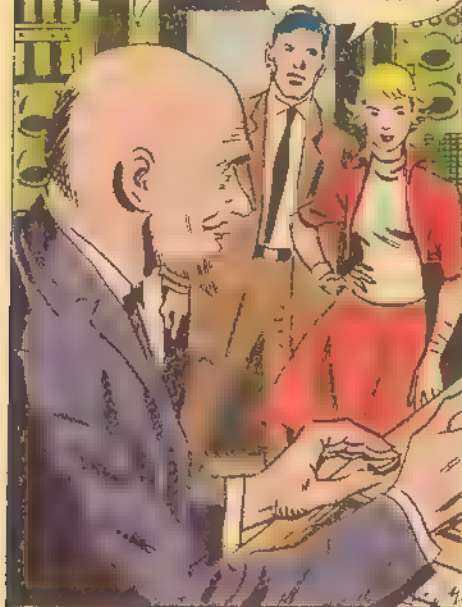
I EXPECTED YOU TO RETURN, MERLIN! BUT THAT CREATURE.. WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

NEVER MIND THAT NOW! YOU SAID YOU RECORDED MORE FUTURE SCENES INVOLVING ME... LET'S SEE THEM!

AS THE SCREEN LIGHTS UP ONCE AGAIN...

GOODNESS!... AN ALIEN BEING--PINNING US DOWN WITH POWERFUL BEAMS FROM HIS EYES!

Y-YES... AND IT WILL HAPPEN, MERLIN! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE YOUR FATE!



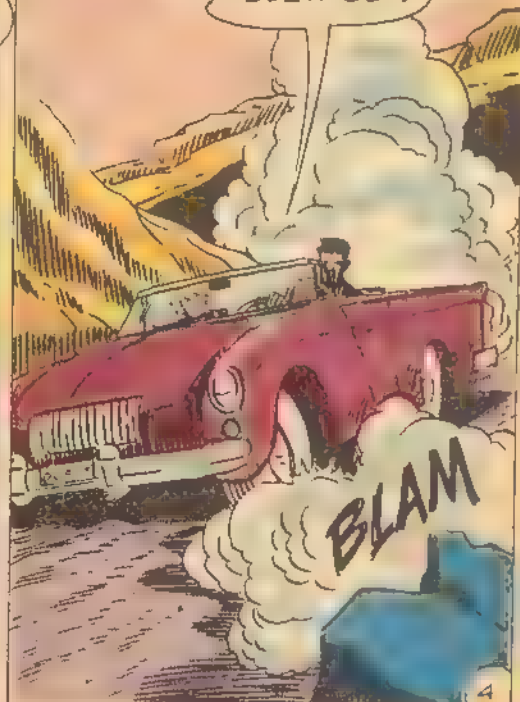
WE CAN TRY! COME ON, ELSA--BACK TO THE CAR! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO LEAVE THIS AREA-- SO IT CAN'T HAPPEN!

PRESENTLY, AS THE ACE SLEUTH TEARS ALONG THE DIRT ROAD...

BUT, NEXT MOMENT...

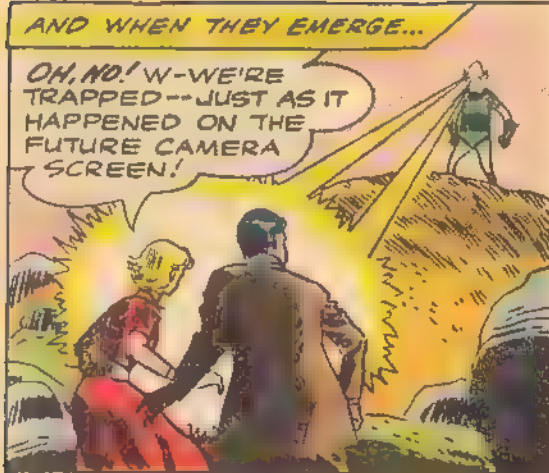
ONE MORE TURN-- AND WE'LL BE OUT IN OPEN COUNTRY! THEN, IT'S ONLY MINUTES TO THE HIGHWAY!

HOLD ON, ELSA! ONE OF OUR TIRES BLEW OUT!



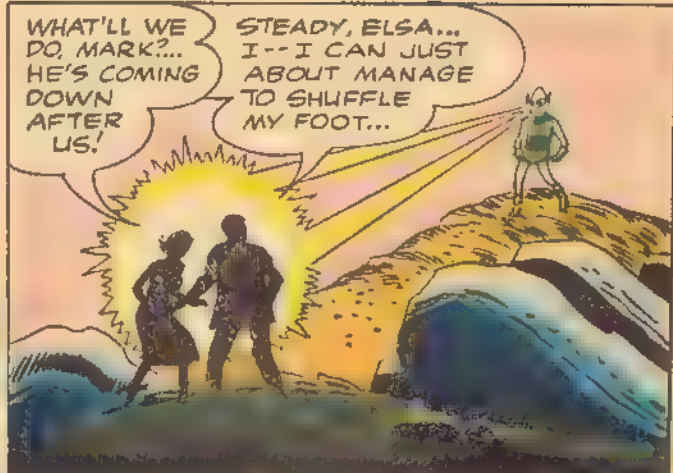
AND WHEN THEY EMERGE...

OH, NO! W--WE'RE TRAPPED--JUST AS IT HAPPENED ON THE FUTURE CAMERA SCREEN!



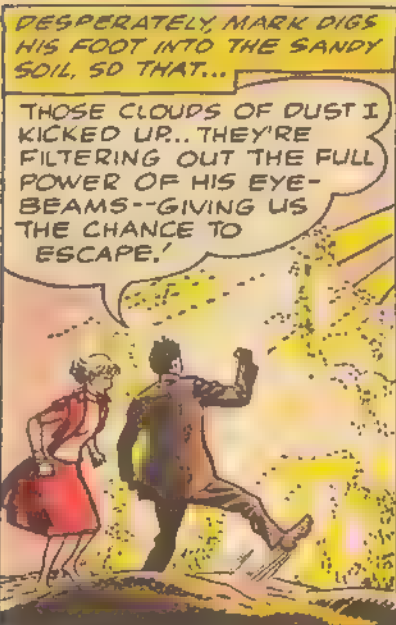
WHAT'LL WE DO, MARK?... HE'S COMING DOWN AFTER US!

STEADY, ELSA... I--I CAN JUST ABOUT MANAGE TO SHUFFLE MY FOOT...



DESPERATELY, MARK DIGGS HIS FOOT INTO THE SANDY SOIL, SO THAT...

THOSE CLOUDS OF DUST I KICKED UP... THEY'RE FILTERING OUT THE FULL POWER OF HIS EYE-BEAMS--GIVING US THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE!

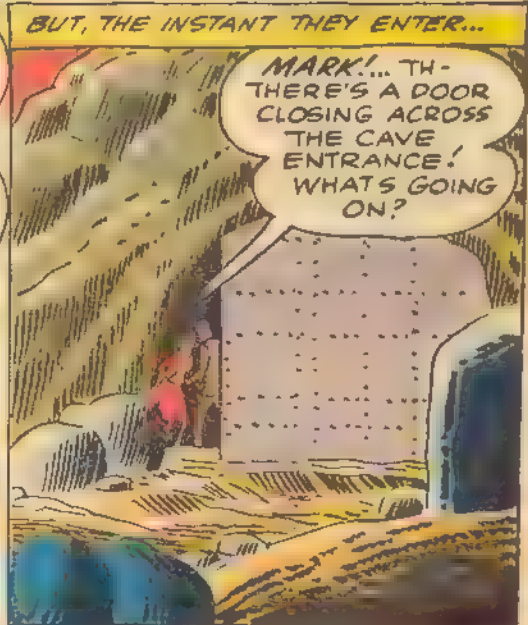


I GOT THE IDEA WHEN I NOTICED A BEETLE ON THE SCREEN CRAWLING ALONG IN A TINY CLOUD OF DUST THAT SEEMED TO PROTECT IT. KEEP GOING--WE'LL TRY TO HIDE IN THAT CAVE... IT'S THE ONLY PLACE!



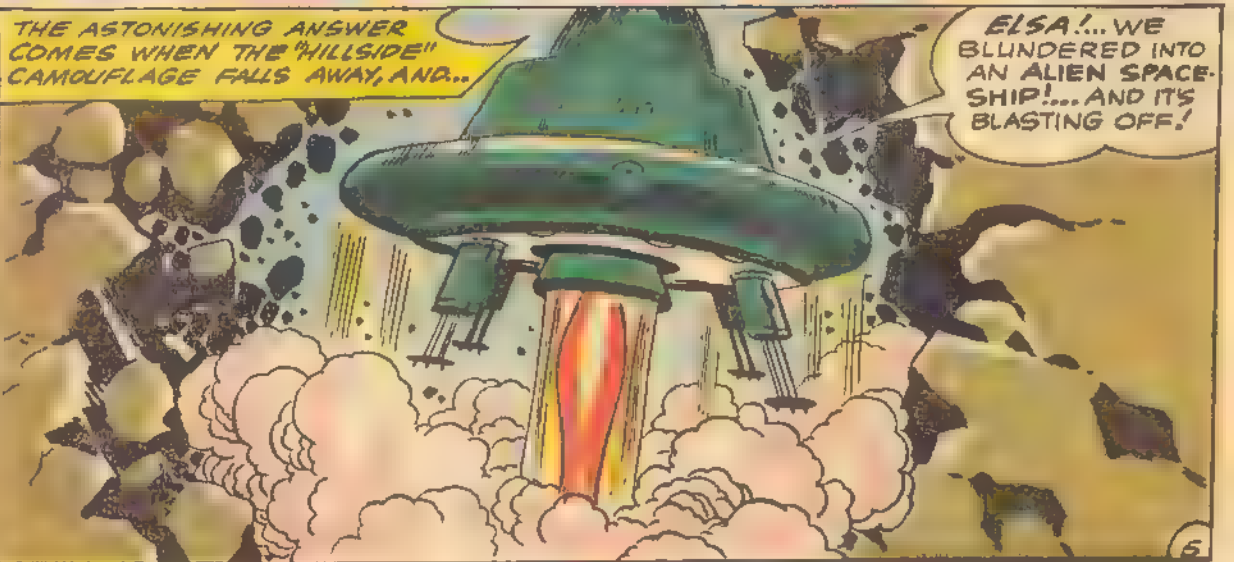
BUT, THE INSTANT THEY ENTER...

MARK!... TH--THERE'S A DOOR CLOSING ACROSS THE CAVE ENTRANCE! WHAT'S GOING ON?



THE ASTONISHING ANSWER COMES WHEN THE "HILLSIDE" CAMOUFLAGE FALLS AWAY, AND...

ELSA!... WE BLUNDERED INTO AN ALIEN SPACE-SHIP!... AND IT'S BLASTING OFF!

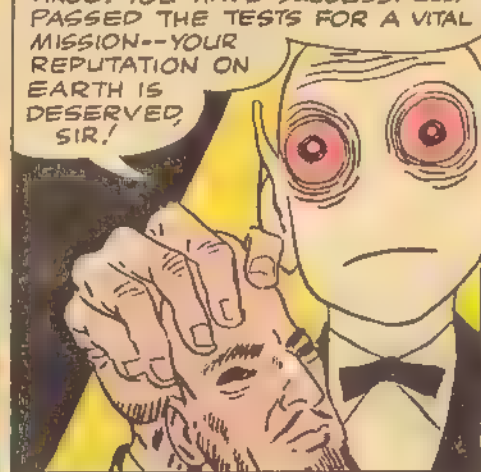
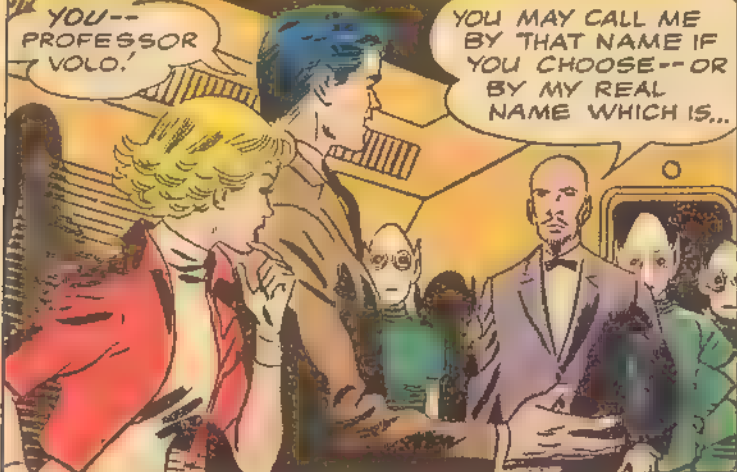


AND INSIDE THE CAVERNOUS CRAFT, MORE SURPRISES ARE IN STORE FOR THE PERPLEXED PAIR...

YOU--
PROFESSOR
VOLO!

YOU MAY CALL ME
BY THAT NAME IF
YOU CHOOSE--OR
BY MY REAL
NAME WHICH IS...

...ECURB, ASSISTANT CHIEF
SECURITY OFFICER OF THE PLANET
VIRGO! YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY
PASSED THE TESTS FOR A VITAL
MISSION--YOUR
REPUTATION ON
EARTH IS
DESERVED,
SIR!



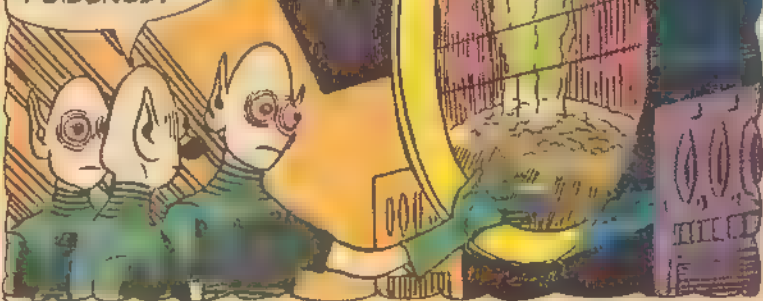
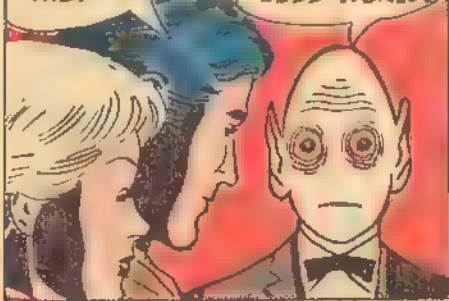
HMM...SO YOU
SHOWED ME
THE PHONEY
PREDICTIONS
ON THE
SCREEN TO
TEST MY
ABILITY TO
SPOT WEAK-
NESSES IN
DANGERS
AWAITING
ME!

EXACTLY! YOU SEE,
NOT LONG AGO, A
MOON ENTERED
INTO ORBIT
AROUND OUR
PLANET! WE WERE
HAPPY AT FIRST.
BECAUSE OF THE
FAVORABLE
EFFECTS IT HAD
ON THE OCEANS
OF OUR MOON--
LESS WORLD!

"BUT SOON, WE
BECAME AWARE
OF A GRIM
DANGER..."

THERE ARE STRANGE
TREES ON THE MOON,
EXUDING DEADLY
FLUMES! IN TIME,
OUR ENTIRE
ATMOSPHERE
WILL BE
POISONED!

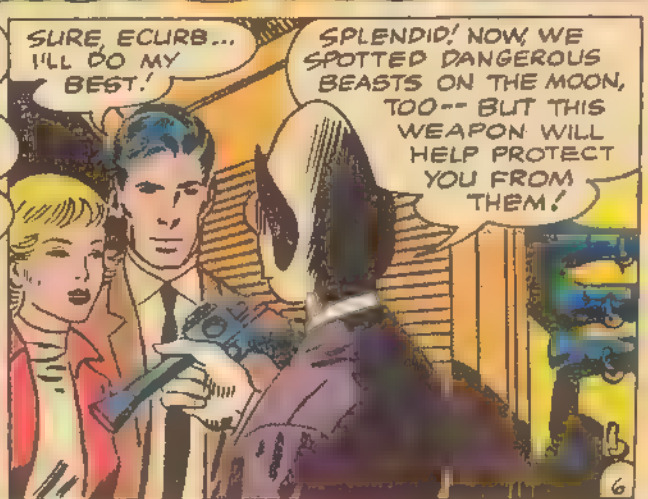
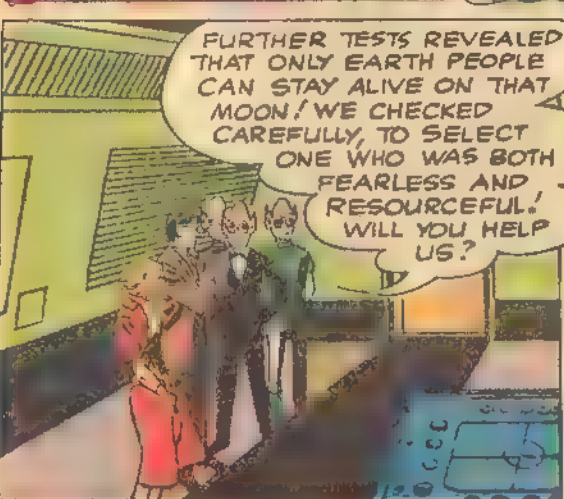
WORSE--WE CANNOT EVEN
LAND ON THE SATELLITE TO
DESTROY THE TREES... FOR
OUR EQUIPMENT IS NOT
EFFECTIVE ENOUGH TO
FILTER OUT THE POISON!



FURTHER TESTS REVEALED
THAT ONLY EARTH PEOPLE
CAN STAY ALIVE ON THAT
MOON! WE CHECKED
CAREFULLY, TO SELECT
ONE WHO WAS BOTH
FEARLESS AND
RESOURCEFUL!
WILL YOU HELP
US?

SURE, ECURB...
I'LL DO MY
BEST!

SPLENDID! NOW, WE
SPOTTED DANGEROUS
BEASTS ON THE MOON,
TOO-- BUT THIS
WEAPON WILL
HELP PROTECT
YOU FROM
THEM!



ON AND ON THEY STREAK, THROUGH THE VASTNESS OF SPACE, TILL FINALLY...

YOU CAN DESCEND TO THE MOON ON THIS SOLID-LIGHT BEAM LADDER! WE SHALL HOVER AT A HIGHER ALTITUDE TO ESCAPE THE FUMES--AND SHALL RETURN IN FIVE EARTH HOURS TO PICK YOU UP!

AWHILE LATER, AS THE DARING DUO MOVES SWIFTLY TO FULFILL THE MISSION...

LOOK AT THOSE GLOWING STONES.. THEY SPARKLE LIKE DIAMONDS!

VERY PRETTY-- BUT KEEP MOVING... THE FUME-TREES ARE DEAD AHEAD!



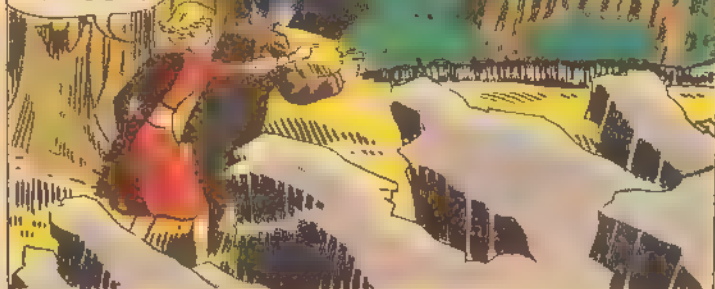
THIS BLAST GUN IS DISINTEGRATING IT COMPLETELY! WE SHOULD FINISH THE JOB LONG AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!

BLAM

SUDDENLY...

MARK!... THERE ARE THE CREATURES THE VIRGONIANS WARNED US ABOUT!

I'LL TRY TO SCARE 'EM OFF WITH A WARNING SHOT!



BUT WHEN MARK FIRES...

WHAT--? ONE OF THEM HELD UP A SHIELD TO DIVERT YOUR SHOT!

THAT MEANS-- THEY'RE NOT BEASTS... THEY'RE INTELLIGENT ALIENS! AND THEY'RE AFTER US! COME ON-- WE'VE GOT TO WARN THE VIRGONIANS, SOMEHOW!

AS THEY RACE OFF, HOWEVER...

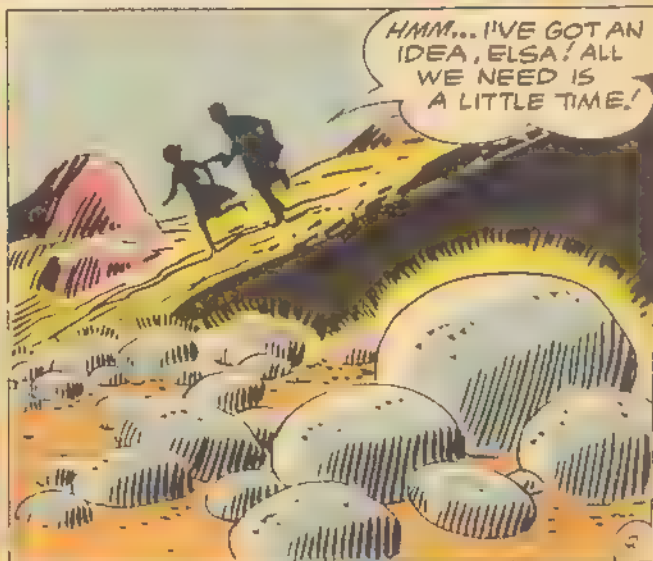
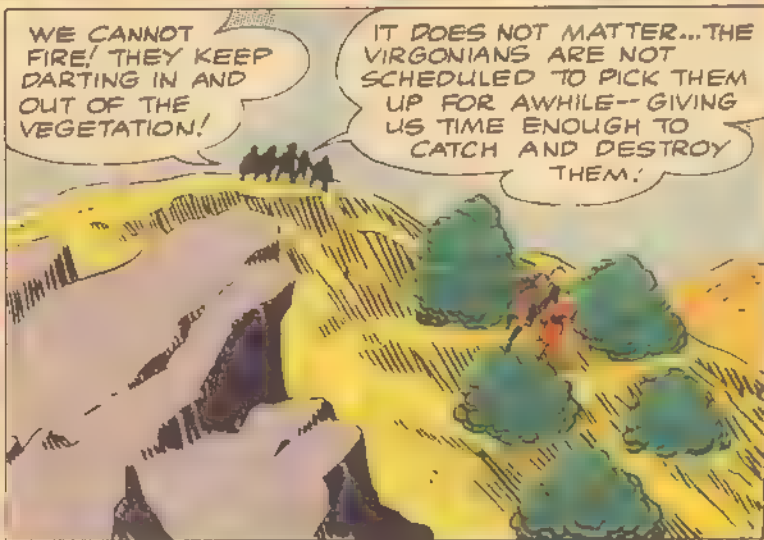
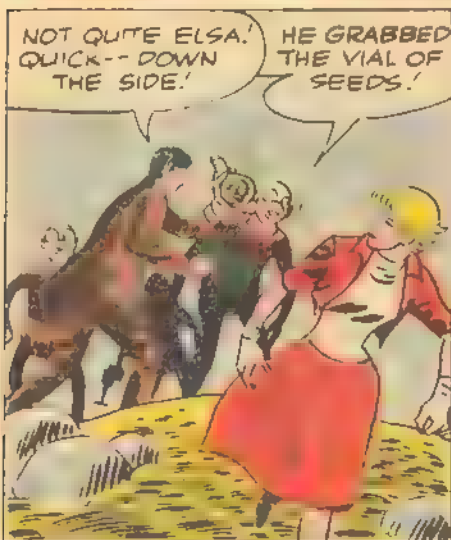
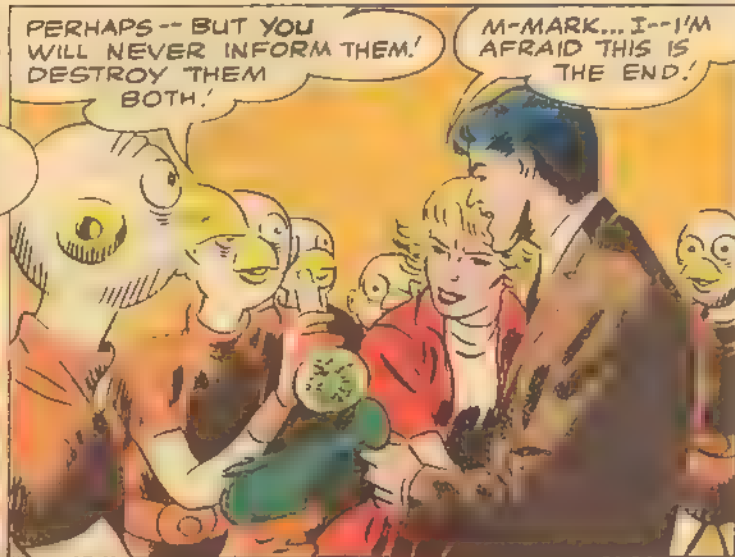
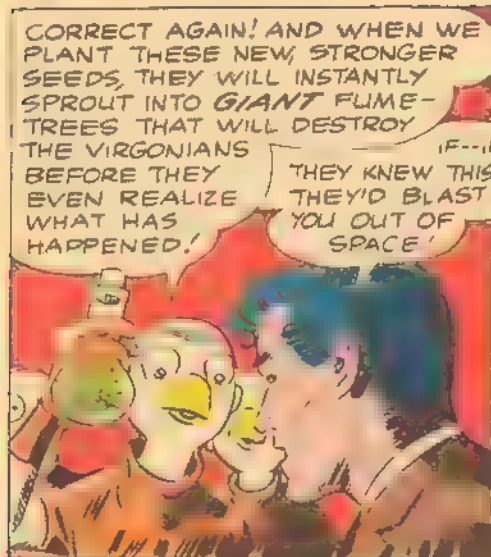
YOU ARE SURROUNDED, STRANGER! THIS SHIP, YOU SEE, IS DISGUISED AS AN ORBITING MOON, TO HELP US CONQUER VIRGO!

BUT YOU FOUND THAT WORLD TOO POWERFUL FOR A FAIR FIGHT-- SO YOU DECIDED TO UNLEASH POISON FUMES TO DESTROY THEM!





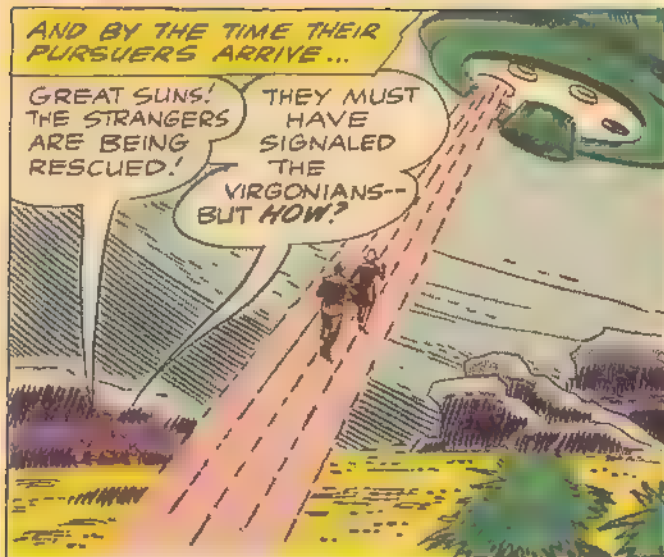
HOUSE OF SECRETS



AND BY THE TIME THEIR PURSUERS ARRIVE...

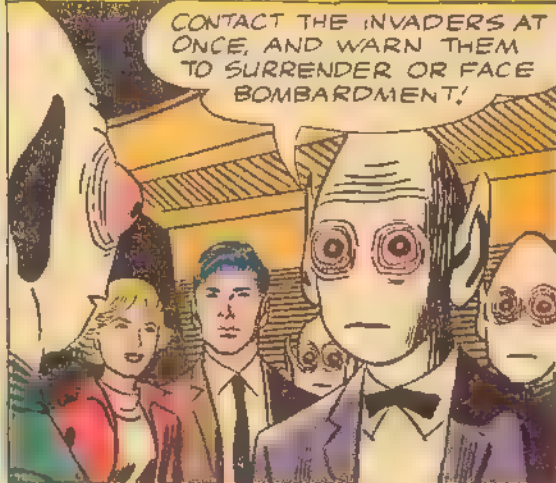
GREAT SUNS! THE STRANGERS ARE BEING RESCUED!

THEY MUST HAVE SIGNED THE VIRGONIANS-- BUT HOW?



ABOARD THE SPACESHIP AFTER MARK RELATES WHAT HAPPENED...

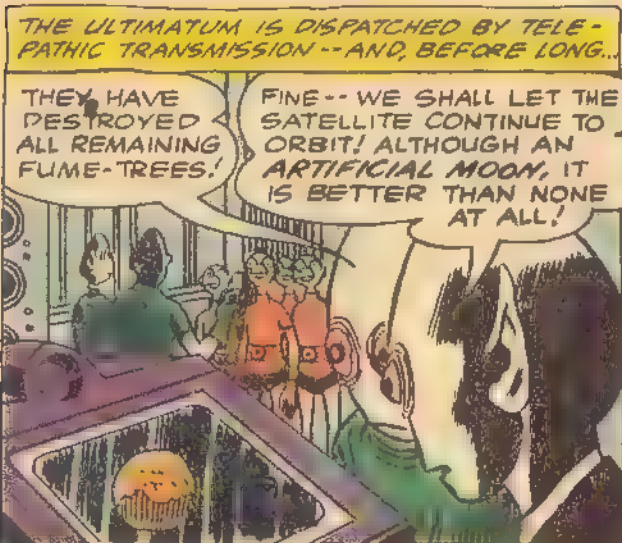
CONTACT THE INVADERS AT ONCE, AND WARN THEM TO SURRENDER OR FACE BOMBARDMENT!



THE ULTIMATUM IS DISPATCHED BY TELE-PATHIC TRANSMISSION-- AND, BEFORE LONG...

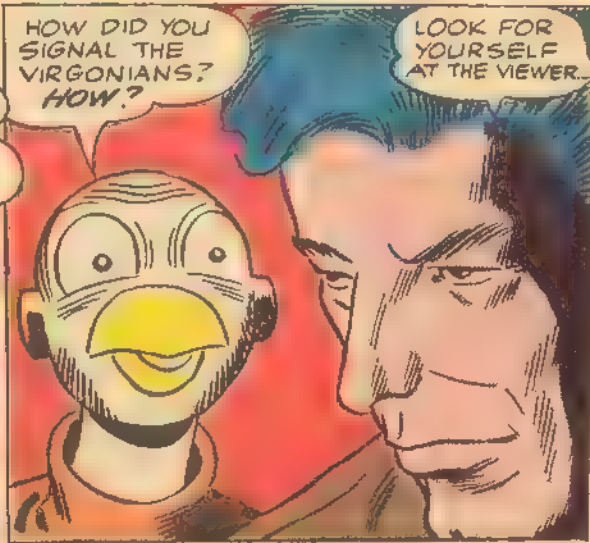
THEY HAVE DESTROYED ALL REMAINING FUME-TREES!

FINE-- WE SHALL LET THE SATELLITE CONTINUE TO ORBIT! ALTHOUGH AN ARTIFICIAL MOON, IT IS BETTER THAN NONE AT ALL!

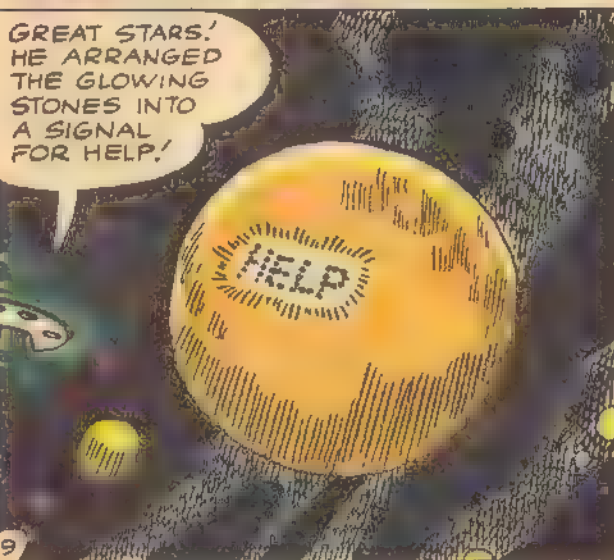


HOW DID YOU SIGNAL THE VIRGONIANS? HOW?

LOOK FOR YOURSELF AT THE VIEWER.

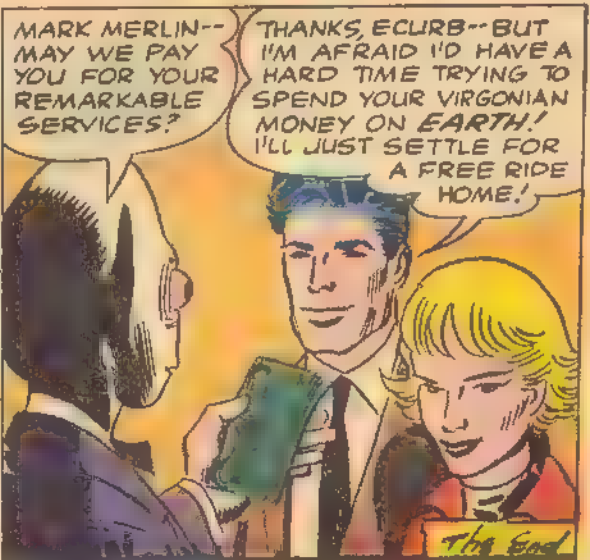


GREAT STARS! HE ARRANGED THE GLOWING STONES INTO A SIGNAL FOR HELP!



MARK MERLIN-- MAY WE PAY YOU FOR YOUR REMARKABLE SERVICES?

THANKS, ECLURB-- BUT I'M AFRAID I'D HAVE A HARD TIME TRYING TO SPEND YOUR VIRGONIAN MONEY ON EARTH! I'LL JUST SETTLE FOR A FREE RIDE HOME!



The End

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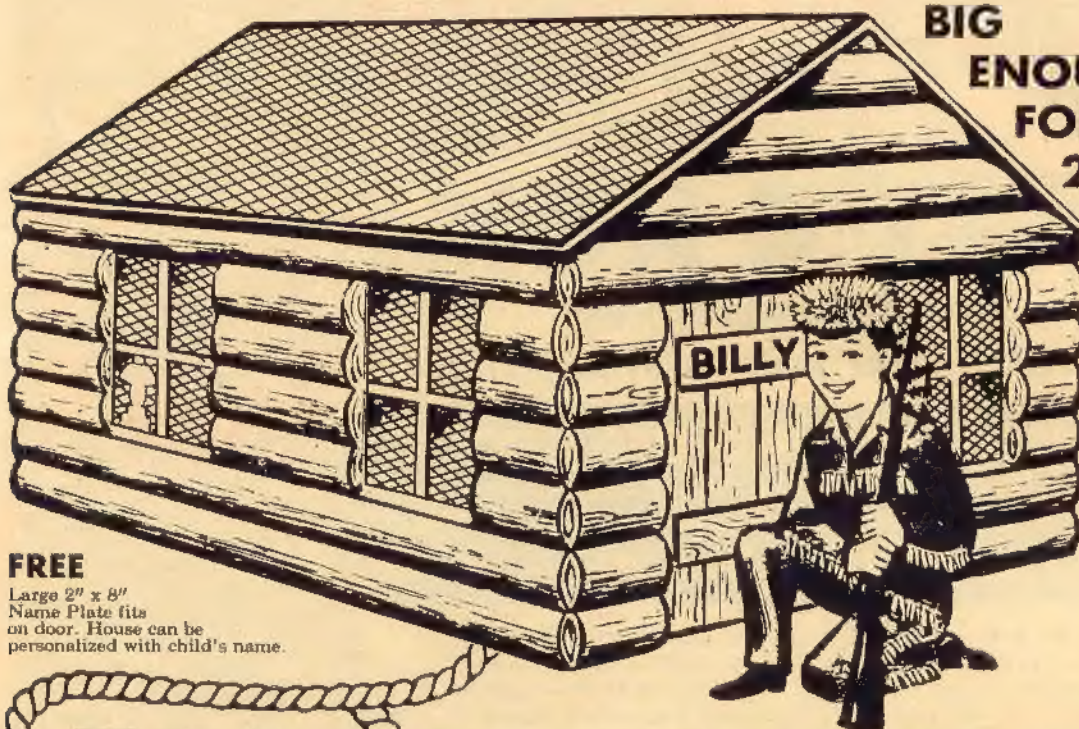
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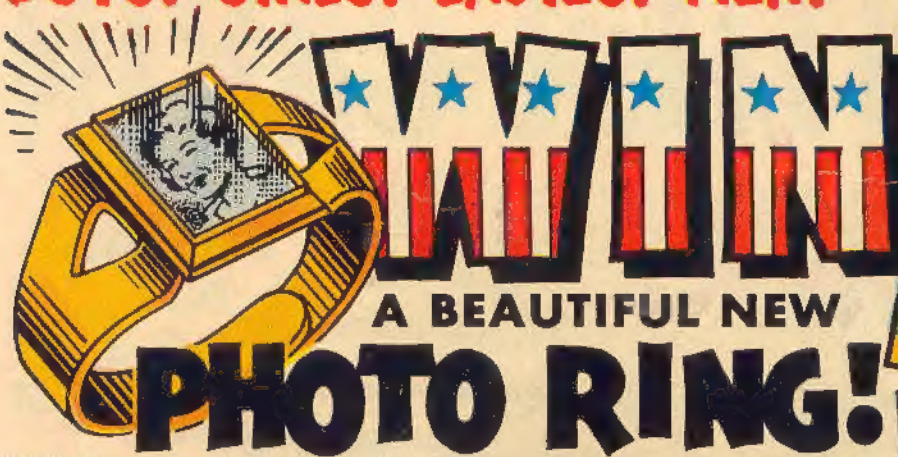
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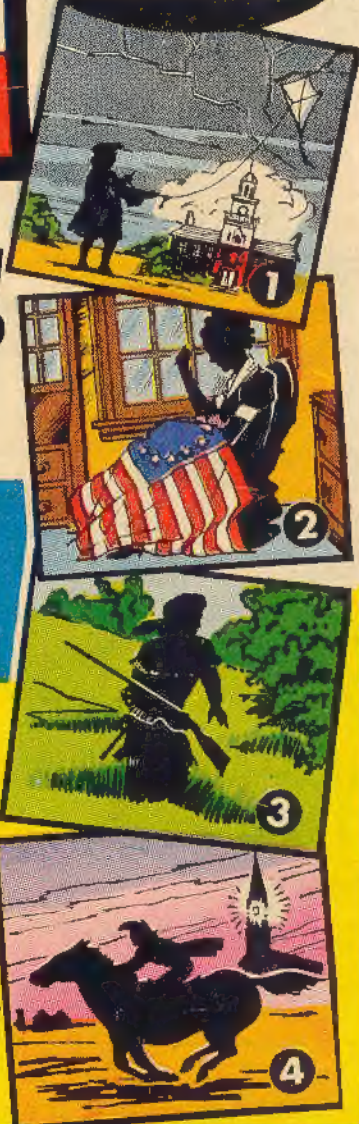
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